WORLD / A21
Enron founder dies while waiting for prison sentence in largest corporate scandal in US history

NEWS / A6
Biazon: Withdrawal of support not a crime; Lim can't be charged

ENTERTAINMENT / A2-6
Celebs caught on cam by Mandy Navasero cheering people's idol

North Korea threatens more missile launches

SEOUL—AMID SIGNS OF FURTHER ACTIVITY at the reclusive regime's launch sites, a defiant North Korea on Thursday threatened to test-fire more missiles and warned of more stronger action if opponents of the test-cast pressure on the country.

The further show of bravado by Pyongyang came amid intense diplomatic jockeying by the

NORTH KOREA A3

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, July 7, 2006 ▲▲ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 209 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Palace, DOJ ratings in corruption survey fall

By Cyril L. Bonabono
PDI Reporter

COMPARED TO LAST year, more business managers believe that key government agencies are losing ground in fighting corruption, but a declining number

PALACE A4

'Lim's video saved GMA'

Angry junior military officers wanted to storm Malacañang

NICOLE BREAKS DOWN for tears in the course of her three-hour testimony during the trial now on its sixth sensational week.

WITH her back to the camera, Nicole allows herself to be photographed in a condo unit in Mandaluyong on Thursday.

By Christian K Esguerra

THE COMMANDER OF THE elite First Scout Ranger Regiment stood in the eye of a storm two nights before that fateful February day—calm and deliberate as angry junior officers demanded that he lead a coup d'etat against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Brig. Gen. Ivanhi Lim cautioned prudence and saved Mr Arroyo from a bloody confrontation with rebellious soldiers, a key participant told the Inquirer yesterday.

He no longer wanted bloodshed, recalling the 1989 putsch against then President Corazon Aquino that had cost scores of soldiers' lives. As a young captain, Lim had then led the military takeover of the Makati business district and, several days later, took them back to barracks as the bloodiest coup in the nation's history fizzled.

Lim was subsequently sentenced, along with several thousand renegade soldiers. He had risen to become at 50 one of the youngest and most respected generals in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

So that when restive soldiers again began mobilizing after allegations surfaced in

LIM'S VIDEO A4

'Nicole' points to Corporal Smith as her rapist

By Volt Contreras

IT WAS LIKE THERAPY IT TURNED out for Nicole.

The Filipina complainant in the Subic rape case took the stand yesterday in a packed courtroom and started recalling what transpired on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

The hearing was suspended four times to allow the 22-year-old woman to recover from weeping.

But she pointed to Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, one of the four accused US Marines, as the dance partner whom she casually met in a crowded bar and who would be "lying on top" of her minutes later.

"Nicole" returned to the stand today and is expected to recount the alleged rape in detail. Her lawyers had previously testified Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon's court that they might bar the public from the proceedings during delicate portions of her testimony.

The direct examination by prosecutor prosecutor Evalyn Ursua mainly sought to establish how drunk Nicole purportedly was when she met Smith at the popular Neptune Club in the Subic Freeport shortly

NICOLE A3

Defensor: Palace monitored De Villa, Tonyboy Cojuangco

By Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID AUTHORities had monitored activities of businessman Antonio "Tony Boy" Cojuangco, former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa and journalist Cecil Arillo in connection with the failed coup attempt on Feb. 24.

But the Palace had no report on the involvement in the alleged coup plot of businessman Hugo Zobel and SR Cruz Jr., as well as former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos, according to Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor.

Defensor was reacting to former Ambas-

DEFENSOR A4

Señeres et al. face sedition raps, says Gonzalez

By Leila B. Salaverria and Margaux C. Ortiz

FORMER AMBASSADOR RAY Señeres and the civilians whom he named as Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim's alleged civilian backers may be charged with inciting to sedition, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said he had directed the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the Inquirer report in which Señeres named names and admitted that he himself had encouraged Lim, the then commander of the First Scout Ranger Regiment, to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo in February.

"I ordered the NBI to investigate all the persons mentioned by Señeres. I want this investigation to embrace all these incidents," Gonzalez told reporters. He said the "widespread investigation" would examine many angles.

The justice secretary also said Lim's military supporters could be liable for charges of inciting and Lim himself for perjury for earlier disclaiming involvement in actions against Ms Arroyo.

He said Lim's video could be used as evidence.

Earlier in the day Executive Secre-

SEÑERES A4

UN to probe RP rights record, says Madrigal

By Norman Bordadora

THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression has given the commitment that the human rights situation in the Philippines "will be under intensive scrutiny" after opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal presented cases of alleged political repression.

In a video of Madrigal's meeting with Amnesty Lizobo in Geneva on June 21, the rapporteur said he would ask the Philippine govern-

UN TO PROBE A3

4 more militants slain

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Marlon Ramos, Joey S. Gabieta and Tonette Orejas

FOUR MORE MILITANTS, INCLUDING TWO members of the party-list group Bayan Muna and a barber earlier raided by soldiers for his alleged links to a communist armed group, were shot dead in four separate incidents in Batangas, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Tacloban City.

Robert de Castro, Bayan Muna national deputy secretary general, identified the two Bayan Muna

4 MORE A4

It's Italy vs France in World Cup final

MUNICH, GERMANY—IT WILL BE A MATCH-UP of blue—France's Les Bleus vs Italy's Azzurri—at the World Cup final in Berlin on Sunday.

Zinedine Zidane, stepping up to the penalty spot and coolly putting France into the World Cup final, scored the only goal on Wednesday to give his team a 1-0 win over Portugal.

Zidane converted the penalty kick in the 33rd minute after Ricardo Carvalho was whistled for bringing down Thierry Henry.

Italy, vying for its fourth title, will be in its sixth final. France, which also defeated Portugal in the

IT'S ITALY! A3

WEATHER FORECAST

CEBU CITY: Modern update of Luzon and Visayas will continue mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mainly in the afternoon or evening.

Second FRONTPAGE

Gov't leaving door open for peace talks

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.
and Michael Lim Ubac

THE GOVERNMENT IS leaving the door open for the resumption of peace negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army- National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) but, Malacañang said yesterday, the communists must prove their sincerity in silencing the guns of their armed agents.

"We have not totally shut down the peace process. What we are looking for is what comprises their sentiment and purpose in the negotiations," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in a radio interview.

"If they are really sincere, why don't they enforce a real ceasefire?"

Ermita noted that the CPP/NPA-NDF had continued to step up attacks while the talks were ongoing.

JAMBY MADRIGAL and Satur Ocampo: Questions to be answered

He cited as example the killings of Cagayan Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo and Rep. Marcial Pancaldo Jr. by NPA hitmen in 2004 while talks between the government and the leftist groups were taking place in the Netherlands.

Ermita said the peace talks would succeed if a true ceasefire was in place even before a final peace pact was signed, in the manner a peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front was reached.

The government has said the communists' insincerity was the main reason why it has turned a deaf ear to the CPP/NPA/NDF's earnest call for the resumption of talks.

"We have made this our stand from the start and the police have been reminding us all along that the communists might be using the peace process to bring in new conspiracy by softening down to use the country with them," said Ermita.

"We were not born yesterday. We know all about their lies and cold treasons of the government."

But Bayan Muna president and party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo claimed yesterday President Macapagal-Arroyo was not interested in talking peace.

He asked the President: "Will you stop the all-out war and the political assassinations?

"Will you resume formal peace negotiations based on the previously signed agreements between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front are reached."

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"Will you resume formal peace negotiations based on the previously signed agreements between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front of the Philippines (MNLF)? Will you seek ways to end the terrorism-tagging by foreign governments against the CPP, NPA and NDFP chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison?"

Ocampo called on "peace-loving Filipinos" to condemn what he called the troops government's "culture of vilification and vote" amid the all-out military offensives against communist insurgents.

He reminded the Arroyo that the Philippine government resumed a party to the formal peace negotiations with the NDFP.

Since 1992, Philippine governments have designated formal peace negotiators with the NDFP who came up to reaching 11 bilateral agreements aimed at solving the root issues of the armed conflict, according to Ocampo.

Masinloc bidder to get notice of termination

By Michelle V. Barros
and Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ISSUE on or before July 15 a notice of termination of its contract with YNN Pacific Holdings, which won the bidding for the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired plant, which the administration sought to privatize.

The notice is to be presented following the failure of YNN to pay the required down payment of $227.34 million on the June 30 deadline, which had twice been already extended.

The board of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) said actual termination would take effect 30 days after the notice was issued.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who is also chair of the Psalm board, said the board would consider the option of still accepting the down payment should YNN be able to produce the amount within the 30-day period.

An official familiar with the deal but who requested anonymity said the June Purchase Agreement (APA) between the government and YNN did not prohibit the former from accepting the down payment even after the deadline had passed as long as the amount was delivered within 30 days before the termination took effect.

But even if YNN were able to pay within the 30 day period, the $34 million in performance bond it had given was already forfeited.

Alexis Acosta, Psalm president, said in a statement that YNN was required to put the performance bond in order to protect the interest of the government should YNN failed to make good its bid.

Acosta also explained in a statement that the issuance of the notice of termination, including the 10-day period before it could take effect, were specified in the APA between Psalm and YNN.

"Like any other contract, the APA between Psalm and YNN states that we should notify the buyer in writing at least 30 days before the termination takes effect," she said.

The bidding for Masinloc, located in Zambales, was held in December 2004. YNN won after it submitted a bid of $561.74 million, it was much higher than the $274.45-million bid submitted by the Lopez-owned First Generation Holdings, the sole contender.

The bid by First Gen was 39 percent below the government's floor price of $388 million.

The government's award of the contract to YNN was investigated by Congress following talks that the winning bidder was not financially stable and amid suspicion that the bidding was not above board.

Finance officials, however, said that the government had to declare YNN as the winning bidder because it submitted the higher bid.

Psalm had already given YNN two deadline extensions, one from Dec. 2, 2005 to March 31 and another from March 31 to June 30, to make the 40-percent up-front payment for the plant.

The second deadline was granted to allow the entry of a new lender, Mideastern companies are Rachell Bhd, on the condition that YNN increased its performance bond from $3.1 million to $14 million.

Although Rachell gave an assurance that it had the resources to cover the down payment, it made a power supply contract with Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. a primary condition for the transmission of the transaction.

Prior to Rachell's entry and at the time of the bidding for the Masinloc plant, Psalm said prospective bidders indicated that they would participate in the auction even though Masinloc would be sold as a merchant plant, or a plant with no power sales contract.

Despite this, Psalm, together with the National Power Corp., continued negotiating with Meralco for a power supply contract, even proposing a rate of P3.50 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), 88 centavos lower than the regulated rate of P4.46 per kWh at the start of negotiations in 2000.

Meralco refused the offer, however, Psalm said. The issue had already been elevated to the Energy Regulatory Commission, but no ruling had been made upon now.

"As the Masinloc experience has shown, bankers are exerting great importance on the power sales contracts with Meralco. At this point, we still have to assess our options as we may do not intend to sell the plant's plans at bargain prices," Acosta said.

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Sotto: Gringo is clean, Danny Lim caper shows

By TJ Burgonio

IN VIEW OF FRESH DISCOVERIES he had on hand in the aborted Feb. 24 coup plot, the Department of Justice should reconsider granting the DOJ's acted upon, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told reporters.

"It's about time that the petition of Erap Ejercito for a provisional liberty investigation in connection with the July 2000 Oakwood mutiny.

"It's about time that the petition of Erap Ejercito for

Cops file charges vs 2 NPAs in Llamas murder

POLICE HAVE FILED MURDER AND frustrated murder charges against two alleged members of the communist New People's Army for the killing of Soriano Llamas, a former senior leader of the NPA, and the wounding of his bodyguard.

Llamas was killed by three motorcycle-riding gunmen in Barangay Tapia in Tuburan City on May 29, while Marvinson Rivera was wounded.

The murder complaint against the three suspects, including alleged NPA members Edgardo Zevilla alias "Ka Diego" or "Ka Peking," and Edgar Culing alias "Ka Vic" was filed with the Tuburan prosecutor's office, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said yesterday.

All three are at large.

"We have four witnesses that positively identified the suspects," said Pete Vargas, a spokesperson for the CIDG.

Asked about the background of the third unidentified suspect, Vargas said: "He was also he no NPA."

Zevilla has four previous warrants for murder and Culing, one, the CIDG said.

A former commander of the NPA forces in the Bicol region, Llamas was listed from jail to help the rebels' political wing, the National Democratic Front, in unsuccessful peace talks with the government.

In 2000, he turned to local politics with an unsuccessful run for the governor's post in Albay province.

The NPA earlier blamed progovernment "fresh squads" for the murder of Llamas and several hundred other leftist figures over the past five years.

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120i Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	10,000 km	P1,680,000
318i (E90)	Titanium Silver	2006	20,000 km	P1,780,000
318i (E46)	Black Sapphire	2003	45,181 km	P1,480,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Titanium Silver	2003	50,000 km	P1,480,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Orient Blue	2002	68,000 km	P1,420,000
318i Executive (E46)	Orient Blue	2004	31,475 km	P1,750,000
320i Executive	Arctic	2006	3,000 km	P2,350,000
320i Executive (E46)	Titanium Silver	2002	20,227 km	P1,750,000
325i Executive (E46)	Black Sapphire	2004	30,000 km	P1,980,000
525i Limousine	Oxford Green	2004	12,500 km	P2,980,000
525i	Crystal Blue	1997	30,000 km	P1,100,000
525i Executive	Silver Grey	2000	1,000 km	P2,900,000
525i Executive	Silver Grey	2004	11,460 km	P2,600,000
530i Executive	Titanium Silver	2006	1,600 km	P4,521,000
523i M Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	1,500 km	P3,520,000
530i M Executive	Silver Grey	2005	1,100 km	P3,400,000

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4 more militants slain

Front page A2

members as John Cada and Celso Dimasalang.

"They are the 112th and the 113th slain Bayan Muna members, bringing to 267 (the number of) activists killed under the Arroyo regime," De Guzco said in a text message to the human rights office.

He said Dimasalanggan, 36, was shot to the head by a still unidentified suspect on Wednesday morning in Palite-Garcia town in Batangas.

De Guzco said the victim was a Bayan Muna coordinator during the 2004 elections.

Dino Capirillo, secretary general of Karapatan-Batangas, and Antonio Alhambra, Bayan-Southern Tagalog spokesperson, also killed one of the victims in Antipolo, not Cebu, Dimasalanggan.

Cada, a member of Alyansa ng Magbubukid ng Gitnang Luzon-Nueva Ecija, was shot by a still unidentified assailant inside his house in Barangay Sinasa, Gumaca town in Nueva Ecija on Wednesday at around 9 p.m.

And in Tacloban City the regional chairman of Courage (Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees) was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle.

Pequito Uriz suffered gunshot wounds in the head and on different parts of his body and was declared dead on arrival at the Bethany Hospital in Tacloban.

The shooting happened at around 6 o'clock last night in front of the victim's house on Rizal-galiano Street.

The military, though immediately denied any involvement in the killing and asked critics to let the police finish their investigation before pointing a finger at them.

Watching TV

Cada was watching TV in his home when he was shot, according to the Bayanng Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

"Before the incident, he was attended and abused by soldiers from the 71st Infantry Battalion under [Maj. Gen.] Jovito Palparan," BMP chair Danilo Ramos said in a statement.

In Lubao, Pampanga, four armed men shot dead Liberty Abesamis, a military detainee, at about 10:30am on Wednesday night, making him the 11th victim of killings and abductions in Gov. Ed Lacson in the first three weeks of the governorate all-out war against communist rebels, according to a militant group.

Aurora Bengal, regional chair of the Bayan-Jam in Pampanga (Amadeanga), said armed men on a tricycle gunned down Carmenio Sison at his home in Barangay del Carmen at past 8 p.m.

Citing reports by residents, Bengal said soldiers from the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion did not respond to the incident even as their detachment was only 800 meters from Carmenio's house. Policemen conducted the investigation.

Carmen was killed two days after soldiers took him and his son for questioning on alleged links with the communist army Hukbong Bayan ng mga Rebolusyonaryong Pilipino, Bengal said.

Rampage

She said the killing showed that Palparan and his soldiers were "on a rampage."

"While actively engaging in black propaganda through intrigue and falsehood, organizing through anti-communist seminars and film showings, the Army has targeted civilians for harassment and even killings, by armed men on motorcycle believed to be from paramilitary groups," Carmen said in a statement.

The KMP lamented anew the failure of government forces, including the military, putting an the story that among the marching rulers of newly installed Philippine National Police chief Oscar Calderon had been to check the murders.

"What is new PNP Chief Oscar Calderon saying that one of his marching orders to his men is to stop the killings of militants and journalists? From our point of view this is nothing but an empty promise and doublespeak," the KMP said.

But the police said it was "unfair" for militants to raise the remark.

"It's an honest intent of the chief PNP to solve the killings—whether the victim is an ordinary citizen, a member or journalist," said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagtilos, police spokesperson.

Pagtilos said the militants' criticisms were unfortunate because Calderon had been dead for two days.

Weighing a bag

Capeñia said Dimasalanggan was shot dead at close range by a lone gunman at the bank of his house in Barangay Bacaba at around 1 p.m. while he was weighing a bag he was supposed to bring to a slaughterhouse.

The suspect, she added, quickly left the area aboard a waiting van with an unknown number of companions.

Dimasalanggan was declared dead on arrival at the Pil. Villa Hospital in town by Lipa City.

Dimasalanggan, a barangay councilor, is a brother of another militant, Ka'Bayan Dimasalanggan, treasurer of the Southern Tagalog chapter, according to the BMP.

The KMP immediately put the blame on government forces, saying the 403rd Provincial Police Mobile Group and the 203rd Special Forces Company had charged Dimasalanggan as an accessory to an encounter between soldiers and communist rebels many years ago.

The same was disclosed, the KMP said.

"In the case of Dimasalanggan, we have reasons to believe that the 403rd PPMG of the PNP were involved in his murder," Ramos of the BMP said.

For her part, Capeñia said Karapatan considered the incident a "political killing."

The police, however, were quick to dismiss Capeñia's claim that Dimasalanggan was a member of Bayan Muna. With reports from *Jaime A. del Puerto*

UN to probe RP human ...

Front page A1

meant to invite him to conduct an inquiry into alleged repression of political dissenters and the media in the country.

"And you know very well that we have the universal peer review this] the members, particularly of the [UN Human Rights Council]," Ligabo said in the video Mariñas presented of a news conference yesterday.

Mariñas, however, said special rapporteurs on various human rights issues like those on food and indigenous peoples had complained that the Philippine government appeared to be ignoring on their requests for invitations to conduct inquiries in the country.

"Countries of the next members of the union if are supposed to give an unrestricted access in entering and to give an open-ended invitation to us," Ligabo said.

"The issue of the invitation to the Philippines will be a priority of mine," he told Mariñas.

The Philippines was elected recently to the UNHRC on the platform that it will improve respect for human rights in the country. The government's successful move to repeal the death penalty law was widely seen as a step in this direction.

Difficult to get invited

"When you're hiding anything, why don't they allow the special rapporteurs to come in? All the special rapporteurs told me that they are having difficulty securing an invitation to come to the Philippines," Mariñas said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, who joined Mariñas in Geneva to present the UNHRC with the human rights situation in the country, said the government may be trying to hide its human rights record from the international community.

"We can see that while the government is on the verge of weathering an all-out war on the New People's Army, human rights suppression are being kept from coming into the country," Ocampo said.

He said that 101 staff members he talked to had said that the country's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva Hasmin Manalo appeared to be sitting on the requests for invitation by the special rapporteurs on the sensitive task into the Philippine human rights situation.

At the news conference, Mariñas presented a letter dated July 1, 2006 from Jean Ziegler, special rapporteur on the right to food, asking for support on her bid to conduct a mission to the Philippines "later this year."

The letter showed that Ziegler made representations with Manalo on May 17, 2006 because of her concerns over the alleged threats to the right to food of residents on Rapu Rapu island, center of a no-mine spills by an Australian company.

Cases presented

Madrigal said she presented Ligabo with such cases of alleged political repression as her being hit with water cannons during a demonstration in Manila, the government's additional preventive response policy, Proclamation No. 1017 (which put the country under a state of emergency in February) and the arrest of detainee Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

Madrigal said she also presented other special rapporteurs and presented them with cases of extrajudicial killings and involuntary disappearances.

Madrigal refuted the government's earlier statements that the United Nations would not give much attention to her allegations of human rights violations.

"[The government] said the UN will only look these presentations. This [video] shows that the complaints were not junked," Madrigal said.

Correction

IN THE JULY 2 issue, a front-page article—"Erman Claudio: Heirs struggle to keep beach legacy alive"—misnamed Jose Sicad's home province. Sicad hailed from Laguna—not Rizal province.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections to Letters Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Pasay, Makati City; fax this: (02) 896-6214; e-mail address: inq.letters@inquirer.com.ph.

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'Nicole' points to Corporal Smith as her rapist

From page A1

before the alleged rape.

Ursua also made her recall the alcoholic drinks she imbibed that night, and which made her feel "dizzy."

Like family

But the complainant, a management accounting graduate of Ateneo de Davao, was also asked to relate how she and her family in Cumbuenga City had learned to "trust" and make friends with American soldiers, particularly those who frequented the family-run canteen at the headquarters of the military's Southern Command.

Nicole said she served as the manager of the canteen, where her siblings also helped out.

"Almost all (some 1,000 American soldiers) like family. We treat them well so that they will not feel homesick," she said in Filipino. "I feel safe with them because I'm used to having conversations with them."

She also said she had an American boyfriend, Brian Goodrich, a Marine based in Okinawa, at the time of the alleged rape. She said he was aware that she was going on vacation in Subic at the invitation of a family friend, US Navy Petty Officer Christopher Mills.

By the wrist

This was how the complainant recalled her meeting with Smith:

At around 8:30 p.m. of Nov. 1, Nicole, her stepsister Anna Liza Evasco Mills, and his lifelong buddy identified only as Garcia arrived at the lobster pot.

The sisters were then on their third day of vacation in Subic.

Before the entertainment finally, Nicole had consumed two glasses of Vodka Sprite, half a glass of Singapore Sling, a glass of SGI (short straight, and eighth of Bell—all served by Mills.

She, Anna Liza, and Mills were dancing when a male foreigner on the dance floor "suddenly pulled" her by the wrist and dragged her away from her two companions.

Afraid, Nicole gave Mills a look that asked if it was OK for her to dance with someone else.

Mills told her: "It's OK, go on and enjoy." Then he turned to the man who had her by the wrist and said: "Just take care of her."

It was at this point in the hearing that Nicole identified the man as Smith.

Making conversation

Nicole continued her account thus:

She agreed to dance with the man and made conversation by asking him his name and age, his branch of service in the US military, and the US state where he was from.

All she could recall or make out on that noisy dance floor was that the man introduced himself as "Daniel or Donard," and that he was a 20-year-old Marine.

After three to four songs, Nicole returned to her seat because she was feeling tired. She said Mills proceeded to the bar, where she found half a glass of Long Island Iced Tea.

"There we (Anna Liza and Nicole) were dancing again, but I didn't know how I suddenly found myself dancing with somebody else (Smith).

"As far as I can remember, I was facing him, but he would try to make me turn my back on him. But I resisted because I always want to see the face of the person I'm dancing with."

Smith tried to make Nicole turn around three or four times. She could not remember how long that second dance with him lasted.

Feeling sick

At this point in Ursua's questioning, the lawyer had made Nicole say how dizzy she had become after each drink she took.

Nicole also said she actually "felt sick" at the Neptune because she also saw among the customers two to three US servicemen she had met in the family canteen in Cumbuenga.

After the second dance with Smith, Nicole said she forgot what exactly happened, but that she remembered drinking Bulldog, another alcoholic drink ordered by Garcia.

She said she consumed half a pitcher of Bulldog, straight from the container.

As she was drinking from the pitcher, three other Americans were standing in front of her exclaimed, "Whoa!"

By then, Nicole said, she had lost sight of Anna Liza and Mills.

"Then I remembered somebody asking me to go out because it's hot (inside the bar). I refused, because I was waiting for my sister. But he insisted (pinilit niya ako)," she said.

'He was blocking me'

On Ursua's questioning, Nicole said that "someone" was Smith. She pointed to the accused in court.

NOT JUST ANOTHER DAY IN COURT for the four accused (in photo) Corporals Daniel Smith (far right) and Keith Silkwood on Thursday when their account took the witness stand for the first time.

Nicole said she resisted Smith's attempt to kiss her and that he was blocking her from leaving the dance floor.

"I was pushing him away, but he was blocking me. I was trying to get away from him, but he was blocking me," she said.

Nicole's testimony turned hazy at this point. "Then I saw an ID but I cannot recall what I read [on it]."

When doing I remembered, somebody was taking pictures of me... He was kissing me."

"And who was that?" Ursua said.

"If Smith po," Nicole said. Then she leaned over in her seat, put her head on the witness' table and wept.

It was the fourth time in the hearing that the victim broke into tears, prompting Judge Hilario to adjourn the proceedings an hour ahead of schedule.

Betrayal

In an interview after the hearing, Nicole's therapist, Dr. Anne Hapalusan-Lopez, said her patient broke down not only because it was "painful" for her to recount the incident but also because "she felt betrayed."

This sense of betrayal overwhelmed Nicole in light of the kindness she and her family had extended to US soldiers who frequented their canteen, according to Lopez, who ministered to the complainant each time she broke down at the stand.

"I made her do some deep breathing and gave her feedback that she's doing well," the doctor said when asked how she managed to help Nicole regain her composure.

During those bouts of weeping, Nicole would put her head on the artists' table or on the lap of the female court interpreter seated next to her.

Mother's embrace

The first-accused 20 minutes into the hearing, when Ursua asked the first few questions on how Nicole's family befriended American customers at the canteen, and how she personally "treated" them, the mother Susan was moved to rise from the gallery to embrace her.

Asked off-court why Nicole's narration seemed to have jumped from her dance with Smith to the point that she felt him on top of her, Ursua said: "You have to take into account that she was drunk."

The lawyer said that Nicole was manifesting "fragmented recall," and that the prosecution might need an expert witness who could further explain this condition in relation to rape.

MIGHTY MATTERS for the broad alliance of women against rape rallying in front of the Makati Hall of Justice to support Subic rape victim Nicole.

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Is withdrawal of support a crime? House sets probe

By TJ Burgonio
and Michael Lim Ubac

IF RTRD. GEN. DANILO LIM merely attempted to withdraw support from President Arroyo, his aid-de-camp, he and his civilian backers cannot be charged before the military or civilian courts, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday.

Biazon, chair of the Senate defense committee, said that based on the transcript released on Feb. 24, Lim attempted to withdraw support from the Arroyo administration but failed by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

"What is very clear [from] an examination of the statements of General Lim is that video clip [is] that there was an attempt at a withdrawal of support," Biazon told reporters hours at the Senate.

"He would say that there was no "wrongdoing" to support the mounting of a coup or a mutiny or inciting to sedition, on that day, and that former Ambassador Roy Seneres' admission that he and other persons had received specific instructions allegiance to the President runs counter to the same line.

"There is no definition, whether in the articles of War or in the Revised Penal Code, of what constitutes the act of withdrawal of support," Biazon said, adding:

"Maybe the answer [lies] in it is disobedience or disrespect to proper authorities."

Perused further on what charges Lim and the rebel soldiers and his supposed civilian supporters, the senator said, "There is none."

He said that if Lim or al. were to be charged with withdrawal of support, Mr. Arroyo and Parliamentary Secretary Ingrid Bunye would also be guilty of the same offense because neither with their video in Edsa II.

Biazon also stated the belief that the simultaneous leakage of the Lim video clip and the military report on the involvement of officers in the Feb. 24 coup plot was "designed to test the waters" (assessing the mood on the ground).

"They are simply orchestrated. The question is, who is orchestrating these [revelations]? Who is orchestrating these should be of higher authority," Biazon said.

Even the House is preparing to launch an inquiry into the matter.

Representatives Ilocos Pimentel-Ilocos and Edsel Lagman said they were set to file separate resolutions asking the plenary to authorize the probe so that Lim can would reveal his knowledge of the plot under oath.

But the two allies of Makabayan said they would file a resolution to cite Lim in contempt for refusing to appear before the House committee on national defense and security.

Pimentel said the House committee on national defense and security should summon Lim to appear before it and explain his statements.

Lagman said Lim's refusal to appear before the committee "is tantamount to contempt of the House."

New chief's arrival triggers PNP shuffle

By Luige A. del Puerto

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL EMCEE Calderon's appointment as police chief has triggered a major reshuffle in the country's biggest law enforcement agency.

Calderon yesterday announced the new members of the Command Group, the Philippine National Police's highest policy-making body.

Calderon said Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr. has replaced him as deputy chief for administration, the position he held before his assumption.

Deputy Director General Isidro Lapeña, former chief of the directorial staff, will take over Razon's post as deputy chief for operations, effectively making Lapeña third in command of the 118,000-strong PNP.

Director Antonio Bilunes, chief of the Directorate for Operations, will concurrently serve as chief of the directorial staff.

Other changes are in the offing, said the new chief.

"As we go along, there will be minor changes and reorganization," he said.

The Senior Officers Promotion and Placement Board is now studying possible changes in the command of regional offices and national support units.

"It's part of any growing organization. I would say there would be reshuffle. I would be looking for the right man for the right job. I would have more projects to implement so I would be looking for officers who can really implement my programs," Calderon said.

CBCP split over second impeachment case vs GMA

THE INFLUENTIAL CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONference of the Philippines (CBCP) goes into its plenary session in Manila this weekend with its members sharply divided on the new impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo and other political issues.

The new issue came up when one of its members, Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan, signed up as one of the complainants in the second impeachment case against Ms Arroyo, reviving the old debate on the separation of the Church and the State.

While Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro and Bishop Oscar Cruz of Pangasinan maintain that Iñiguez's act violated no Church doctrine, other CBCP members like Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu and Ramon Arguelles of Lipa City are not as supportive of the impeachment complaint with the latter airing doubts on the motives of anti-Arroyo critics in filing or endorsing the new charge sheet.

"I believe it is a waste of time," Arguelles said. "Many believe that the new impeachment complaint is a weak case and will likely fail because they don't have the numbers." He added that the "issues are rooted on political ambitions" of some people behind the impeachment case.

Vidal had said Congress could make better use of its time by amending to prepare priority legislation.

CBCP members are meeting on July 8-9 at the Pope Pius Center along United Nations Avenue in Manila and are expected to come up with another pastoral letter that will likely tackle, among others, the impeachment complaint, Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical on Church-State relations, and the parishes' concerns over the recent spate of political and media killings.

Last January, the CBCP issued a pastoral letter declaring that the search for truth behind allegations of official corruption and 2004 electoral fraud should be "relentlessly pursued" through constitutional means. In a follow-up pastoral letter last April, meanwhile, the CBCP expressed reservations over the ongoing People's Initiative drive for constitutional reforms and reiterated its support for a duly-elected Constitutional Convention (ConCon) to amend the 1987 Charter.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 7, 2006
15th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Gn 49:2, 8-10, 9-12
Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus moved on from there, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the customhouse, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with tax collectors and sinners?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: 'What I want is mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary:

This is the heart of Jesus' message. Jesus who trampled on the poor and destroyed the land and life without justice, it is time to repent or die—God will not show mercy on the land and those who live on it unless they repent. All this because they are a Nation of the Word of God. And Jesus calls Matthew—a tax collector—someone notorious for injustice and stealing from the people. Jesus has come for sinners, for those who are unjustly and unfaithful. He is a doctor of mercy, careful of sinners, but wishes those who are self-righteous. Where does the prophet Isaiah call us, what direction are

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N. Korea threatens more missile launches

Reuters/AP

United States and its allies to push the UN Security Council to take stern action against the North's seven missile tests on Wednesday.

Ito's statement made through the state-run Kyodo News Agency, the North Korean foreign ministry insisted that the seven ballistic missiles launched by the country's armed forces were intended for defense.

"The successful missile launches were part of our military's regular military drills to strengthen self-defense," the statement said. "As a sovereign country, this is our legal right and we are not bound by any international law or bilateral or multilateral agreements."

The statement did not mention the approaching Taepodong-2, which would fly off-shore and should not draw a missile-defense response.

The ministry also repeated its position in recurring fears in South Korea that the North was preparing for further launches. South Korean officials said intelligence showed continued activity at the North's missile sites, although at least one official said another launch was not necessary.

Pyongyang also vowed to retaliate against efforts to interfere with the launches, but it did not specify what it would do.

Pyongyang's tests pushed crude oil prices to an intraday record of $75.40 a barrel before easing to $73.19 in the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude prices for August delivery further fell 13 cents to $73.06 a barrel in Asian trading on Thursday. The previous intraday record for front-month oil futures was $75.35, which was set on April 21.

Splits among critics

At the same time, however, splits emerged among the critics of the North's testing program.

At the United Nations in New York, China, the North's closest ally and Russia, which has been trying to reestablish lower-key ties with Pyongyang, said only diplomacy could halt North Korea's missile and rocket development program.

In a bid to coordinate strategy, UN Presidente Gregor H. Stark held separate telephone talks on Thursday morning with their leaders in Japan and South Korea—the two top allies in the region—en route to the North, but with differing results.

Japanese officials said Tokyo and Washington had agreed to push for sanctions against Pyongyang, while South Korean officials said they had agreed only to cooperate in diplomacy, with no mention of punishing North Korea.

Chief UN nuclear negotiator Christopher Hill was to head to the region this week. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also planned to visit South Korea in late July for talks on North Korea.

In addition, Deputy Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei said a visiting Japanese politician did not want to go to North Korea now to urge a return to the stalled six-party nuclear disarmament talks, Kyodo News agency reported.

The report also said that Wu had proposed bilateral US-North Korean talks, and said the missile launches were probably in reaction to a US resolution on alleged North Korean counterfeiting, money-laundering and other wrongdoing.

The missiles, all of which apparently fell harmlessly into the sea east of the Korean Peninsula on Wednesday, provoked international condemnation, the convening of an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council and calls in Japan for economic sanctions.

Ready for firing

South Korean media on Thursday reported that North Korea had three or four more missiles on launch pads and ready for firing, but the Japanese government said there were no indications of a long-range missile launch.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service "is closely watching the situation by keeping in mind that North Korea would like a missile after repairing a technical defect," Chun Jin-bok, a senior official in the agency, told the National Assembly.

A South Korean government spokesperson, however, said another missile test was not imminent, adding it would take time for the country to repair the launchers.

The North has also banned people from sailing into some areas off the east coast in a possible sign of preparations for additional launches, according to Chosun Ilbo newspaper.

Patient dialogue

Despite the rise in tensions, South Korean officials said they had no plans to abandon their strategy of engaging to forge stronger ties with Pyongyang. While Seoul condemned the missile tests, it has also called for "patient dialogue" rather than sanctions in response.

"There is no change in the engagement policy," Unification Minister Lee Jong-seok told the Nat'l Assembly on Thursday morning, referring to former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's policy of engagement toward the North. Lee also said there was no need for the South Korean government to block personal exchanges between the two sides.

Bush has urged world leaders to stand united in denouncing their North Korea gear up its nuclear-weapons program, saying the communist nation remained a threat even though its long-range missile tested. The US administration said North Korea's barrage of seven test missiles further united all the nations into action from the rest of the world.

Japan, within range of North Korean missiles, circulated a UN Security Council resolution that would ban any country from transferring funds, materials and technology that could be used to North Korea's missile and weapons of mass destruction programs.

China and Russia—concerned that this favored a tougher council statement without any threat of sanctions—both countries hold veto power on the council. AP

GMA calls on Pyongyang to stop missile tests

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday condemned North Korea's missile launches and urged the Jonathan state not to conduct any further tests.

"In solidarity with the international community, the Philippines condemns the missile tests of North Korea," Ms Arroyo said in a statement, urging Pyongyang to "refrain from further compromising the peace and security of the region and the world."

Ms Arroyo said the Philippines, a member of the UN Security Council and close military ally of the United States in Southeast Asia, would "be at the forefront of supporting moves to ensure world security."

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, however, said that, if a major "villain" for the United States used its allies to stop other states from developing intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) and nuclear arms while maintaining such a highly destructive arms arsenal themselves.

"The multilateral lawmakers, however, stressed that his group was against the imposition of sanctions within the Korean peninsula and the region.

"Basically, we in Pinoy Muna call for the dismantling of nuclear weapons and ICBMs, and a stop to all testing by any country," Ocampo said. Reports by GC C. Cabucegan Jr., Michael C. Elbo and AFP

It's Italy vs France in World Cup final

From page A1

semifinals of the 1994 and 2000 European Championships, will be making its second appearance in a World Cup final—the other was its famous 3-0 victory at home over Brazil in 1998.

France and Italy, which hosted host five times (3-0 in extra time in the other match), have a long history of knockout battles. France rallied to defeat Italy, 3-1, in the Euro 2000 final when Sylvain Wiltord scored with 90 seconds left and David Trezeguet got a goal 11 minutes into extra time. France also beat the Italy on penalty kicks in the 1998 World Cup quarterfinals.

Underscore as nine straight games since a March 1 friendly loss against Slovakia, France entered the final after a goalless draw with Spain, against Switzerland and South Korea, before beating Togo to get to the knockout phase. France then defeated Spain and defending champion Brazil to reach the semifinals.

A lot of luck

"People were giving us a lot of rain, right at the beginning," Henry said. "Now the only thing we can do is play as a team.

"I think it will be a tight game because the Italian team has the same way of playing as us. So we'll see us," Henry added.

Portugal, a 28-1 shot into December, advanced to the World Cup semifinals just for the second time. Eusebio, the star of Portugal's 1966 run, was on hand, as was former France captain Michel Platini, considered by many his nation's greatest player.

France's win ended Portugal's 21-game unbeaten streak since a 4-0 loss to Ivory Coast in a March 2004 friendly. It was Scolari's 13-game undefeated string to World Cup matches.

Zidane, the balding hero of the 1998 final, converted the penalty kick one minute after Cuvalho brought down Ribery about a meter into the penalty area and Portuguese referee Jorge Larrionda pointed to the spot.

Zidane sent the ball just inside the post, with goalkeeper Ricardo Pereira diving to his right but was just unable to get a hand on it. "The chance one neutral player of the year, who is retiring from soccer after this tournament, scored, yelled and clapped his hands.

He balding back

"He's worked hard solidly for the past month to be ready to play a match like this," France coach Raymond Domenech said of Zidane. "He played all out to reach the final and just holding on."

Portugal had not allowed a goal since the 26th minute of its first-round finale against Mexico.

"They're a great team and caused us a lot of problems. In this sort of match, it often your right to the wire," Domenech said.

Not since Spain's Euro 1964 Olympic qualifying semifinals, Zidane's penalty kick ends three minutes left in extra time gave France a 1-1 victory over the Portuguese after Abel Xavier used elbow to block Willard's shot.

Portuguese players charged Austrian referee Guenther Benko, resulting in six-match suspension for Xavier—who was watching Wednesday's match from the stands—and lengthy bans for two teammates.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Zidane were whistled by each other's fans to the crowd of 66,000 at Allianz Arena. The Real Madrid teammates—Zidane is in Spain's top league a year from about 20 meters in the fourth minute, and Willy Sagnol blocking Ricardo from getting to the rebound.

Maniche just missed over the bar in the ninth minute with a 30-meter drive off a pretty header from Deco.

"We did defend like Deco," Henry said. "After we scored the penalty, we did defend amazingly."

But then the pace slowed, and neutral fans started chanting "Deutschland! Deutschland!"

Evenly matched

"The two teams were very evenly matched for long periods," Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said. "There was nothing to choose between them, but when you are losing, you haven't confidence remaining optimal."

"Today we didn't do that," he said.

Henry acutely added to the lead three minutes into the second half with a shot that went off Ricardo's left wrist and spun wide of the post. Ricardo Ribery had a shot from the air about a minute later that Ricardo pushed over the bar.

Portugal nearly secured a tying goal in the 73th, when France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez—another of the 1998 heroes—let his 30-meter free kick bounce off his arms and up in front of the goal. Luis Figo, another world player of the year, had an open header then he was unable to finish.

Portugal reached the semifinals by beating England on penalties.

"We have got a good record in this World Cup. Almost nobody expected us to be among the last four, with a shot at the final," Scolari said.

Former teammates

Zidane and Figo—a-real captains and former Real Madrid teammates—made for each other after the referee to swap jerseys and embrace.

Both will get another chance to play in this year's World Cup. Zidane against Italy in the final and Figo against Germany in the third-place match on Saturday.

For Domenech, it's time to get ready for Sunday's final at the Olympic Stadium.

"We were, it's just another match, the 64th we've played. And now we have the rewards," Domenech said. "It's only when we'll get there and we see the ceremony that we'll realize what we've done. But let's not get carried away." AP

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Dr. Warren's wife, Mr. KAY WARREN, Author, Founder and Co-founder of Saddleback Church and host of Hours, will speak before MAF on 25 July 2006, Monday, 12:00 Noon, Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Her topic will be "HOW TO BE JOYFUL NO MATTER WHAT" (Political crisis, Economic crisis, Family crisis, Personal crisis...).

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Guns of Maguindanao go silent

A WEEK OF FIGHTING BETWEEN MORO rebels and paramilitary forces stopped yesterday as officials mediated an end to clashes that threatened peace talks in the south, rebel and government officials said.

Jesus Dureza, the President's peace adviser, held discussions separately with some leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and local politicians to control of paramilitary forces in restive Maguindanao.

Dureza also neared temporary shelters in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, where seven people were killed on June 23 by a bomb aimed at the provincial governor, Sadiul Ampatuan, an incident that triggered the recent hostilities.

"We have an initial arrangement. We hope it would stop the physical fighting on the ground," said Ramon Santos, a retired general and head of the government's truce panel.

Buffer zone

Santos told reporters the arrangement included the setting up of a buffer zone where soldiers, members of paramilitary forces and Moro rebels would be prohibited from carrying guns.

"We can't technically call it a ceasefire because there's already one in place since 2000 between the government and the MILF," Santos said.

"There will be no movement of forces, no provocative actions and no effort to cool hostilities."

There were no reported skirmishes yesterday, a day after Moro fighters erupted in fierce frenzy soon as three guerillas reclaimed areas taken by paramilitary forces early this week.

Meanwhile Iqbal, the MILF chief peace negotiator, said his group had been in contact with Ampatuan's camp to find ways to end the clashes that displaced nearly 20,000 people.

"We have no quarrel with the governor and we're willing to help in the investigation of the bomb attack," Iqbal told Reuters by phone.

The MILF has been negotiating with the government since 1997 to halt a conflict that has killed more than 120,000 people and hampered development of the south, which is rich in oil, minerals and agricultural goods.

On Tuesday, the MILF and paramilitary forces agreed in a six-hour truce to allow relief workers to check on conditions of civilians caught in the crossfire.

Residents complained dozens of houses were burned down and that crops and farm animals were destroyed by howitzer and mortar shelling by paramilitary forces since last week.

Dureza said members of the government and rebel truce panels, accompanied by Red Cross officials, will tour the conflict areas to assess the damage and distribute humanitarian assistance. Reuters

1/3 of RP homes have no toilets

ONE-THIRD OF homes in the Philippines have no toilet facilities or proper sanitation, helping causing high cases of disease, the health secretary said yesterday.

Secretary Francisco Duque said more than 3.6 million homes were lacking the facilities, among an estimated 31.276 million households in the Philippines.

Duque told authorities and local officials that this was one of the reasons diarrhea remained one of the top diseases in the Philippines, claiming the lives of 722 people out of 100,000 who become infected.

The latest survey in 2003 found that only 72.8 percent of the population had access to sanitary toilets, far short of the 86.8 percent target set under the United Nations' Millenium Development Goals. No author. AFP

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Ombudsman sacks 3 NBI agents for raid

By Helen F. Flores

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERday dismissed three National Bureau of Investigation agents from the service after finding them guilty of illegal seizure of the motor vehicles of a trading corporation, along with the cars' accessories, engines and spare parts.

Dismissed by Ombudsman Simeon M. Gutierrez were lawyer Jesse Pedro Matus, special investigators (SI) Rolando Balmeteg and Dominic Sarvise Cortez, all of the NBI-Investigated Cluster for Economic Racket (ICER).

Aside from the dismissal, Gutierrez also ordered the filing of criminal charges against Matus, Balmeteg, Cortez and Sanchez before a Davao City Regional Trial Court for violation of Sec. 3 (e) of Republic Act 3019 (or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act).

The three were found guilty of grave misconduct, abuse of authority and violation of Sec 4 (c) of R.A. 6713 (or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees) after administrative charges were filed against them by Jacob Gil Lee, general manager and chair of the board of Isuzu Motors Trading Corp. based in Davao City.

In his complaint, Jacob said that the NBI agents raided his office on May 14, 2004 on the pretext of serving a search warrant issued by Judge Nelsonelias Bulnas of the Davao City Regional Trial Court Branch 33 and seized 37 motor vehicles of which only two were later returned.

Jacob alleged further that the NBI agents had no justification to search and seize the vehicles as they were holding office in Sta. Ana Ave., Davao City and not in Davao City.

The agents, the investigation showed, did not give a detailed receipt of items and only got to details when they returned the search warrant to the court on May 31, 2004.

CAMP CRAME CAR LOT

President Arroyo looks under the hoods of the new police patrol cars as composed by Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Director General Arturo Lomibao during the launching ceremony at Camp Crame in Quezon City yesterday. Also in photo are Police Director General Edgardo Aglipay and Police Chief Superintendent Leopoldo Bataoil. The President ordered the acquisition of 1,000 patrol cars to boost the capability of the police force in fighting crime. Malacañang Photo Bureau/Ernesto Ordoñez

It's graft-buster vs graft-buster in the office of Ombudsman

A GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER OF THE Office of the Ombudsman has asked Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to act on a complaint he filed 10 months ago against a deputy ombudsman whom he accused of corruption, obstruction of justice, favoritism and overindulgence.

Gilbert Bueno, a graft investigation and prosecution officer, had asked Gutierrez to investigate his complaint against Orlando Casimiro, deputy ombudsman for the military and other law enforcement offices, and to file appropriate criminal and administrative charges against him, if the evidence warrants.

In a complaint filed in September last year, Bueno accused Casimiro of conducting a "systematic style of management" that promoted good performance and rewarded inefficiency. This he said, has caused demoralization in the ranks of the office under him. Bueno also filed a supplemental complaint-affidavit to support his allegations in Gutierrez' last year.

Bueno also named Ernest Belaluna Officer head Prosecution Formals; Investigation and Prosecution Officer Raleigh Cecilio and several other members of what he called Casimiro's "gang" in the charge sheet.

Fake affidavit

He accused Casimiro of corruption for instructing him to approve the dismissal of a case (Prudencio Villarin, et al. vs JINDS Francisco Torres, et al.) on the basis of the complainant's affidavit of desistance that turned out to be falsified. He said Casimiro ignored his oral advice to be informed him that the affidavit of desistance was forged.

Bueno said he later learned that Casimiro's haste in dismissing the case stemmed from the fact that the retirement checks of the respondents would become stale the following day if they could not secure a clearance from the Office of the Ombudsman.

"The unconscionable over-interest of [O] Casimiro in dismissing the case for the purpose of encashment of long issued retirement checks is grossly and flagrantly unethical," he said.

That, he said gave unwarranted benefits to respondents while causing undue injury in the complainants and was tantamount to obstruction of justice for showing partisanship in the dismissal of the case.

Bueno said this was one of the reasons why the public has acquired the impression that their office has become a "market place for resolutions."

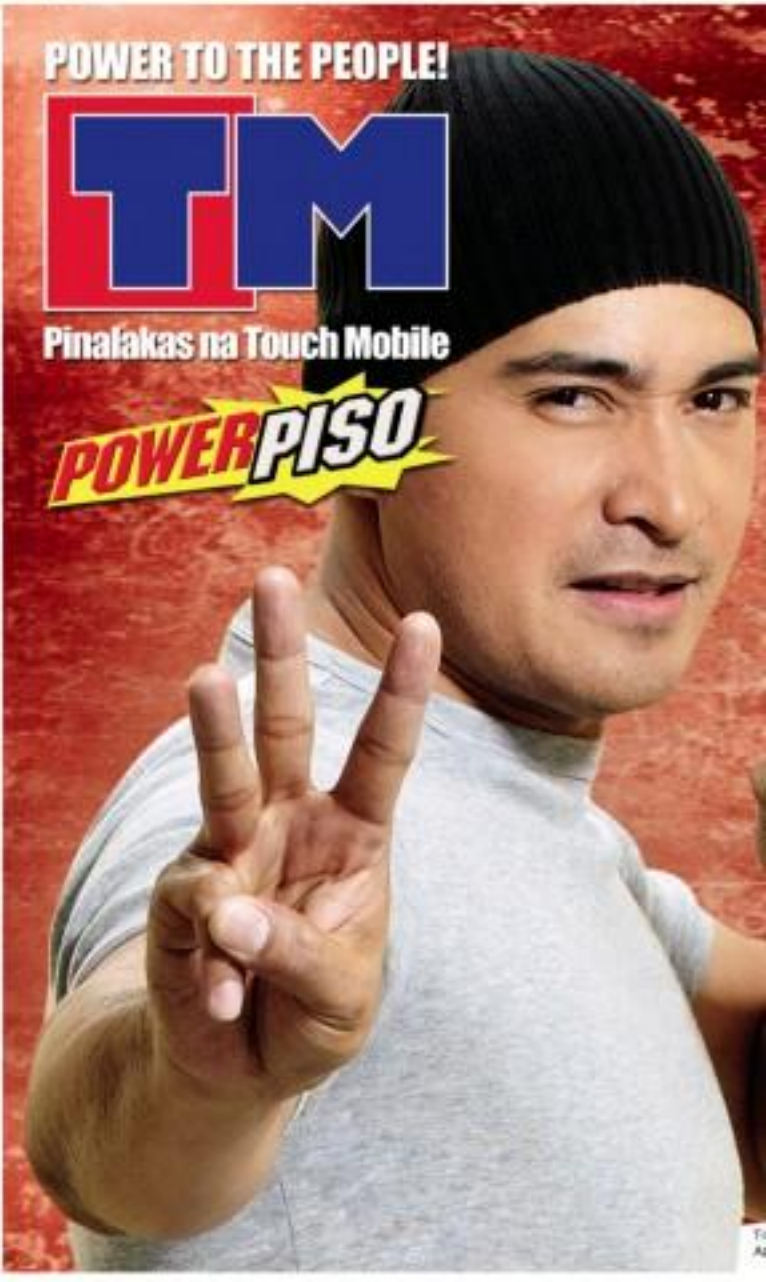
Lifestyle check

He also asked the Ombudsman to conduct a lifestyle check on Casimiro, whom he accused of acquiring unexplained wealth. His two affidavits, however, offered no solid evidence of the allegedly illegal wealth that Casimiro supposedly acquired as buy new cars, remodel his ancestral house, send his children to exclusive schools and buy lands in Dumaguete and Palawan.

Bueno also accused Casimiro of playing favorites and practicing nepotism, citing the case of Fernanda who in her capacity as OIC officer was responsible for the hiring and promotion of her own daughter and sister. He said the hiring and promotion were approved by Casimiro.

In accusing Casimiro of favoritism, he cited the case of another graft investigation and prosecution officer who had acquired a backlog of some 100 pending cases and yet was rewarded with a state-funded scholarship while the more deserving officers were penalized with the burden of taking over the officer's unresolved cases.

In his letter to Gutierrez, Bueno expressed the hope that the matter would be investigated in an "open, impartial and expeditious manner" in order "to protect the integrity, credibility and responsibility of the Office of the Ombudsman."



ewly installed PNP Chief Director Oscar

GMA inspects 200 new patrol cars

By Luige A. del Puerto

MORE THAN 200 PATROL CARS PUR-chased by the Philippine National Police without public bidding were yesterday inspected by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Camp Crame.

"These 200 vehicles are part of the P1 billion that we gave to the PNP to make its work in maintaining peace and security more efficient. Like I said yesterday, our law enforcers are very important in upholding the Constitution and the rule of law; which are, in turn, very important in our democracy," Ms Arroyo said in Filipino.

The vehicles are to be distributed to the regions, with Central Luzon receiving the biggest number at 21, the PNP said in a statement.

Senior officials made rogue assurances after the inspection that future purchases would go through bidding, but maintained that their mode of procurement was within the law.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said Mr Arroyo was more concerned about how the vehicles would be distributed.

"She was asking [if] we are sure say every police station has a vehicle. We will have to ... check [our records]," he said.

As a rule

Puno said that as a rule, the National Police Commission of vehicles is done through public bidding—"unless there is a specific reason why it cannot be done."

As the purchases made, it has been explained to us that there were some reasons why it was more advisable to undertake what PNP-SG Mr. Avisor question that as long as the provisions of the law are followed," he said.

He also said it was the PNP chief who would make the decision on whether to go through bidding or not.

But Deputy Director General Avelino Razon said that the PNP-SG go through a semblance of the bidding process, and that the acquisition of some P222 million worth of cars, motorcycles and firearms were made "in the spirit of" one.

Asked if the PNP would ensure that future purchases would go through bidding, Razon, former head of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), said: "Actually, to set the record straight, we did go through some sort of public bidding. A formal although verbal [offer] was made to different car dealers."

While only Toyota Manila Bay submitted an offer, other Toyota dealers eventually contributed cars, he said.

Like Puno, Razon said the general rule was to go through bidding.

"However, it should be understood that there are exceptions to the law and if it will redound to the interest of the organization, if it will produce economy and efficiency, if there is insufficient time, then we can resort to negotiated bidding or direct contracting," he said.

Needed for summit

The PNP-BAC had sought to justify dispensing with bidding by saying the vehicles were immediately needed for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in December.

But no mention of this was made in the PNP statement. It merely said some 204 patrol cars, unmanned vehicles, troop carriers, pickup trucks, patrol jeeps and commuter vans would be distributed to the regions to boost police visibility and improve response time.

Asked about the procurement process, Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, the newly installed PNP chief, responded by saying that the administration would "encourage the use of a procurement."

"There is a procurement committee which will be in charge of transparency and we will make sure that it is done transparently. But I would say that the actions of the PNP were within the limits [of the law]," he said.

3,000 firearms

Razon admitted that the acquisition of 3,000 firearms worth about P320 million could be made under the law.

"It can [void], but again I would like to clarify that the process of buying the firearms were through the spirit of public bidding," he said.

Razon said the firearms were bought "because they are only for the threat natural but also for the day-to-day scenarios and additional [encounters]."

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LAKAS NG GLOBE

Former Army bigwigs served eviction notice from Fort Boni

By Dona Pazclingan

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY IS POISED TO EJECT over a number of retired officials, including former chief of the army and former Defense Undersecretary Jose Calimag Tesoro Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) housing compound in Fort Bonifacio.

The 48-hectare JUSMAG area, with a market value of at least P12 billion, is claimed by a group of homeowners representing by retired military and police officials who said they bought the prime piece of property for P11.9 million in 1951.

The claim of the Southside Homeowners Association Inc. (SHAI), which has been upheld by the lower court and by the Court of Appeals, was challenged by the Bases Conversion Development Authority before the Supreme Court.

The BCDA claimed that the SHAI's deed of sale and the transfer certificate of title were forged.

Despite the pending Supreme Court case, Army lawyers yesterday served eviction notices on the retired generals' quarters.

Perhaps due to the legal implications of the move, Army officials tried to keep the matter of the eviction notices hush-hush.

'Internal problem'

"All I can say is the Army has a problem with (the) JUSMAG (property). It's an internal problem and we don't want to discuss it," Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. told in a phone interview.

"Some people might be traumatized and we don't want that. We want to treat it as an internal matter," he said.

"It's just soldiers serving notices of eviction. That's nothing," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascua said, declining to give details.

But according to another source, members of the Army's Judge Advocate General's Office (JAGO) prepared and served the notices yesterday. Another officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said the target eviction date is on July 31.

It could not be immediately determined how many of the 106 housing units were served eviction notices. More than half of the units are occupied by retired officers.

Under military housing regulations, the families of officers who have retired, resigned or died have to leave their quarters within 60 days.

Big names

Several former top military and police officials have claimed for themselves units in the former US housing compound even though they have retired from the service.

Among them are former military chiefs of staff Roy Cimatu, now special envoy to the Middle East; Benjamin Defensor, a special envoy on counter-terrorism; and Hermoso Mallanawa, postmaster general.

Other prominent occupants of JUSMAG include former police chief Edgardo Aglipay; former military deputy chief and now defense undersecretary Ernesto Carolina; former Army Southern Luzon Command chief Alfonso Ongsiping; former Army chief Eduardo Ermita; and former Air Force Tactical Operations Command chief now interior undersecretary Melchor Rosales.

Other prominent retired officers are former Army chief Guillermo Flores; former Marine commandant Ruperto Millena; former Philippine Military Academy superintendent Rafo de Vera (1-26); and retired Air Force Major General Jaime Bere.

The army's move came after the Philippine Navy has successfully evicted some 200 overstaying retired officers and men from the Southside Naval Station housing compound in Fort Bonifacio last May.

But unlike the Army, the Navy announced the names of the overstaying officers, which included three former Navy chiefs, in an apparent bid to force them to voluntarily leave the military quarters meant for active officers.

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OPINION

Goosing the gander

CARLO M. RECTO FAMOUSLY SAID, "WHAT'S sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." That was his way of explaining the legal concept of estoppel. And now all the fur-bristling rhetoric from the administration cannot disguise how thoroughly estopped it is.

The full battery of arguments seized upon by President Macapagal-Arroyo and her staff concerning the Garci tapes can now be employed not only by her critics but by those on whose support the rulers—such as the military's top brass, who are questioning the authenticity of the Lim tape (just as they deny the authenticity of the investigative report simultaneously released with the video). We detect a certain irritation over this on the part of Malacañang, but in truth, what can the administration do, engage in rhetoric? But unless it wants to further divide the Armed Forces, it has no choice but to submit to the AFP's version of questioning every fine point of authentication and verification, not only of the tape, but of the military's investigation—just as the Palace's own lawyers demanded with regard to the Garci tapes and during the first round of impeachment, and possibly with equally scandalizing results as far as the public is concerned.

EDITORIAL

Is it hypocrisy for the military to be less than eager to roll over and accept the Palace's logic, or for those being implicated in the Palace's version of events to insist on applying every argument hitherto used by Malacañang? Not under the law—and not, if the President is to be taken at her word, as she demands. She, after all, insisted she was prepared to be held accountable. The military brass, if they are to be taken at their word, insist on the same thing, and they seem determined on doing it Malacañang-style. The Palace gander deserves goosing by the AFP.

Indeed, in seeming an opportunist, the administration has opened itself up to a dilemma.

What the tape actually suggests is quite different from what the Palace wants the public to believe, which is, that the tape is in as post facto justification for its actions. The tape, whether authentic or not, does not validate the President's proclamation of a state of national emergency. Proclamation 1017 has been declared legal by the Supreme Court—as an expression of the President's state of mind at the time. However, the Court ruled that what was done on the pretext of the proclamation was unauthorized, illegal and wrong. The Court decided that the administration set about harnessing powers and instituting policies that the proclamation neither justified nor allowed.

And neither the leaked document nor tape serves to support a central argument of the administration: that there was a "Leftist-Rightist conspiracy." If at all, it shows how isolated the Left was from the intent and planning of those supposedly implicated in the tape, its production and the motivations behind it. If anything, there was a "Middle-Rightist conspiracy," and it was its more conservative than the administration is willing to admit. In other words, the constituencies it has always trumpeted as solidly behind it have been far from solid. Former Ambassador Roy Señores was actually an instructive figure when he said, "If (the President) wants to put us in jail, let her try but she can't do it because we're too many." And that, not the arrogance of whatever it was—a mystery, a withdrawal of support, or an actual coup—that Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim intended is what bedevils the administration to this day.

The tape, then, neither justifies the actions undertaken in the wake of the proclamation of a national emergency nor does it weaken the impeachment charges, which inquire into the President's behavior during the 2004 elections and the counting and her use of her powers since then. No one questions the right, even duty of the administration to defend itself. It's the manner and means by which it's been doing so that is under scrutiny.

It could even be asked: If the Lim tape actually proves the Palace's premises were entirely wrong, what does it say about the ongoing policies of the President? Such as the Kempetai-style zone and bombering to the provinces?

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Violence plotted after impeachment was blocked

THE PLOT TO OUST BY FORCE PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, as told in the press, is the result of her refusal to face squarely impeachment charges against her. Instead of defending herself in an impeachment court, she resorts to all sorts of tricks and ploys to dodge the issues. If she is innocent—as she has so often claimed—particularly on the key charge of cheating in the elections, she should want to face the music and clear her name. By running away, she is encouraging violence.

As the story is being told, it is the military component of the plot that was impatient and resisted to tap forces. The civilians included a senior administration official and Joel Jurado. They persuaded that the whole thing will not stop there. The plot will continue, especially because the President has not changed her impetuous style.

The administration may have the upper hand now because of the disclosure of the details of the plot, but the plotters will not stop. It may be a different group next time, or the same one after learning a lesson, but they will not give up just because the first one failed. Our history shows that Filipinos don't give up easily. The many Filipino rebellions against the Spaniards and Americans before the Revolution of 1896 succeeded. The Filipinos' love for freedom and hatred for oppression continued during the American and Japanese occupations and even up to the Marcos dictatorship. It is continuing into the GMA dictatorship, and she may end up with the others if she does not mend her ways.

The hottest coming out is among those who wanted to oust GMA, are not only opposition politicians but businessmen and leaders from different sectors. What about the rank and file? Do the people understand what is going on and feel for the future of the nation are fed up with GMA and her cohorts. The coarse GMA accepts this, the better. She has to accept the fact that she is very unpopular and seems to be making a last colossal mistake.

And those arrested but no contributing to her unpopularity by saying the wrong things. They say they do this purposely to show the

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

filth away from the President, but it doesn't work that way: the sins of low-ranking officials go back to the boss. They don't erase the filth among their constituents if on her.

What's coming with underground movements, mass rallies, possibly will remain and efforts to oust a sitting president will continue, though violence if the constitutional process is blocked. If the present impeachment complaints are again blocked, there will be many more rallies and that won't be the end of it. The discontented people will look for other ways. And they will use violence if peaceful means is blocked. Sooner or later, a plot will succeed

Mexican poll telenovela mirrors RP's crisis

MEXICO'S FIFTEAR-OLD DEMOCRACY HAS been plunged into its first baptism of fire as it recounts the bizarrely contested presidential election last Sunday, which produced inconclusive results, prompting the two leading candidates to claim victory.

The recount is causing a lot of nervousness in Mexico, its giant neighbor, the United States and Latin America not as much over the fate of its young democracy but more over whether Mexico would join the swing to left-wing parties which has been happening in the region over the past six months.

Of more direct interest to Filipinos is how the Mexican electoral process resembles the political crisis caused by the early poll results, which, as of last Wednesday, showed leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, former mayor of Mexico City, taking a slim lead of about 2.5 percentage points. Early results of the recount show that Lopez Obrador has the lead of just over one percent but had 37.65 percent of the vote based on the returns from 40.6 percent of polling stations, while Felipe Calderon of the ruling National Action Party got 36.4 percent. Calderon, last Tuesday, claimed victory based on the results from 1,000 votes, or 1 percent, based on preliminary results released by the Federal Electoral Institute. That tally had him winning 36.38 percent of the vote, compared with 35.34 percent for Lopez Obrador.

Lopez Obrador immediately demanded a full-on, ballot-by-ballot recount, claiming widespread irregularities. "With such a close result, counting just part of the votes could cost a shadow of doubt," he said. "The stability of the country is at stake."

Lopez Obrador has a history of leading street protests, leading some of the most spectacular anti-Iraq War rallies in the world when he was Mexico City mayor. He has also threatened to call his supporters to the streets unless the recount is rendered by the electoral institute. The tension that began last Wednesday marks the process of verification of the results but not necessarily the resolution of the crisis. Lopez Obrador's Democratic Revolution Party leaders said, "We are going to launch a battle for the legitimacy of the election."

ANALYSIS

Armando Gonzalez

If we hold a mirror to the Mexican election, we could easily see a reflection of the flaws of our electoral system and their potential for generating political impasse and crisis. The Mexican elections are the first reflowering test of their democracy, entering the memories of what happened only six years ago, when the National Action Party of outgoing President Vicente Fox ended 71 years of monopoly of power by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which had ruined Mexico in its long-term party rule.

Included then in the main issues of the Mexican elections is the integrity of the electoral process in a narrow sense. It would miss the point that the elections have important ideological and policy dimensions represented by the contending ideological outlooks as market forces of Lopez Obrador and Calderon, creating a left-right dichotomy in society about the gap between the rich and the poor as well as order in the Philippines. If the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Fernando Poe Jr. race was very close, it was also more of a personality contest than about the basic direction of the country.

Calderon, a Harvard-educated lawyer and ex-economy minister of the Fox government, has presented himself as championing the cause of continued opening of the country to the global economy and free trade with the US. He has cast Lopez Obrador of following in the footsteps of Hugo Chavez, the left-wing president of Venezuela, whose nationalist and populist policies are causing nervousness in Washington.

Lopez Obrador is a populist who styles himself as in the mold of the poor. He plans to invest heavily on infrastructure to reduce unemployment and promises to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement in Mexico's favor. His big public spending proposal has raised fears that the country would be plunged into renewed economic disaster.

Lopez Obrador, a charismatic politician in contrast to the bland, technocratic Calderon, has promised to cut his salary by half if elected, raise pensions, institute free universal health care and provide cheap money for entrepreneurs. Instead of raising taxes, he said he would remove some monopolies favoring the wealthy.

It is these programs that have raised concerns among the Americans press. The Chicago Tribune said the populist campaign capitalizes on the long-standing resentment over the gulf between Mexico's rich and poor ... But his spending proposals could spell a return to the inflation and runaway debt that plagued the country in the 1970s and 1980s."

The New York Times commentators said a Lopez Obrador presidency "could usher in a form of Latin American leftism as yet unseen: messianic populism." A Guardian commentator in London said a Lopez Obrador victory would put "Latin America's march to the left forward another month—through Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay Bolivia and Chile" right at the doorsteps of the United States. It added: "Not that there is much conformity among the regions left-wing leaders. They run the gamut from the pragmatism of Michelle Bachelet in Chile to the virulent anti-Americanism of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela."

The Economist said that Lopez Obrador "would send chills down Wall Street's spine" while the Financial Times said the election could crystallize Latin America's new divisions between Mexico's left and pragmatic—though vituperative, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay Bolivia and Chile" right at the doorsteps of the United States. It added: "Not that there is much conformity among the regions left-wing leaders. They run the gamut from the pragmatism of Michelle Bachelet in Chile to the virulent anti-Americanism of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela."

The BBC noted that a win by Lopez Obrador "would send alarm bells ringing in the White House, for he has the same social agenda as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and challenge to regional dominance."

The leftist tide of electoral politics in Latin America stands in stark contrast to the shift further to the right of a Philippine regime that is on its puppet's use "off our nose" with the communists in surgency.

'Bastos'

SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHILE CONDUCTING RESEARCH on young adult Filipinos' speaking, I realized how important the word "bastos" was to young people.

Applied to neutral matters, "bastos" means "frank" and "obvious." Quite often, the word would be used as a kind of blanket commentary that the sentiment of the utterer of the sentence was about something: his in general was seen as brutal and therefore not suitable for conversation, at least not between elders and the young.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

As another level, however, the term made several natives more alluring. Another knowledgeable about sex—in theory or in practice—would be called bastos in a sense that mixed a bit of mock contempt with grudging admiration.

The concept of bastos as brashness tends to sidetrack a more important core meaning of the word, which is directness. "Bastos ako" means that someone has been disenfranchised in one or more of the communal and non-communal matrices, and could be through words, deeds, or even a whole dimension, as when a child gives that "bastos" posture in response to a parent's sermon.

I think we need to move bastos away from a pejorative, admonishing term toward one which emphasizes ethics, particularly respect for others. Let me cite two examples, from current events, to explain my point.

Bikini

Last Wednesday, July 5, was the fifth anniversary of the bikini. I always thought the name had something to do with its being a two-piece outfit. Often, "bi" for it can be in reference to the Bikini Atoll Island. Isn't it ironic that the name from Bikini Atoll out in the South Pacific, where the United States had conducted its first nuclear tests in June 1946).

Bikini's bikini, made of three triangular patches of cloth held together with ties, was so much shocking as the nuclear tests. Advertisers and product quickly seized it. The bikini was banned in several countries and even from French town mayors. Acceptance came slowly. A song made waves in 1960 with the title "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" and helped to boost sales. In 1962, Ursula Andress wore a bikini in the James Bond thriller "Dr No" and in 1963 the American magazine Sports Illustrated first used a bikini clad model on its cover.

Over time, the bikini has been analyzed and re-analyzed by social scientists for its social meanings. So some of the more feminist-oriented, the bikini represents the commodification of the female body, exposing as much skin as possible for male gratification. Paradoxically, the bikini can also be seen as an item of sexual liberation, of women being able to express themselves without fear of retaliation. There can be mixed feelings about this exposure, even from among women. Some see the bikini as having reinforced the prettiness-is-slimness, others (and I can testify to seeing this in Brazil) wouldn't care less what their body shape is—Coca-Cola, apple or pear-shaped—eating the bikini as a statement. "I'm proud of what my body is, even if it doesn't conform to your standards."

In the Philippines, the bikini hasn't quite gained acceptance yet. Visit beaches used by the masses and you'll find people not even using a one-piece suit, instead, they'll be using a blouse or t-shirt and shorts. Bikinis are worn in the way a sexy bloma may be even more provoking than a bikini.

The reluctance to see a bikini speaks not only of modesty but of body image, a fear that one might draw criticism for daring to run a bikini without the "it", the "curves" proportions. I am told that the main buyers of magazines like FHM are not necessarily males but, I think, from the models in them, what men are looking for.

So, is the bikini bastos? Let's save the possible answers for this end.

'Lakaye'

The other case study I wanted to use was the recent two-week competition of the Philippine Association of Speech and Classification Board (PTSCB) of GMA-7's "Extreme" for featuring a documentary "Hindi ito Bastos! Lolas with Phalluses." The documentary featured Kalayaan, Quezon, where grandmothers dance with wooden penises to great crowd-cheers. The PTSCB reprimanded "Extreme" for featuring "obscene, indecent and immoral" scenes. I was later asked to render their opinion, and decision in Filipino. I think they would have claimed that "Hindi ito Bastos" was bastos.

The PTSCB's decision reflects a rather definition of the word, a censorial one that says anything sexual, including nudity, is bastos. I think that the decision lacks a contextual understanding of how the dancing is an integral part of local culture, one which has been done for many years, out to the streets. Howie Severino, the "I-witness" host, asked some Kalayaan residents if they thought the dancers were bastos or not, and opinions were split, but even those who said they were bastos said it light-heartedly with ill-disguised glee.

The dancing lolas seemed as that popular Filipino culture is actually less conservative than we think. Kalayaan isn't the only town that's so comfortable with public displays of sexuality. Due of my students many years ago compiled "grown" jokes from the town of Quezon, songs about sexual anatomy and sexual acts that were sung openly by local mothers and grandfathers at wedding receptions. The list could go on and on, from the nuts in the barrel souvenirs of Baguio to double-meaning pop songs.

It's hard to trace the origins of generous like those of the dancing lolas. Some may be a preconceived fertility ritual to prevent the old from dying. But I'm willing to argue as communities "demonstration" exercises that help young people, especially newlyweds, to be more comfortable with sexual matters.

Questioning 'bastos'

So is the lolas' bastos? If this response is the criterion, then yes it is, but if it's a matter of respect and disrespect, the answer becomes harder to come by. I would think it's better, meaning disrespectful, to deprive women of their autonomy, their right to choose what they want to wear to the beach. Are they lucky to people who may find the bikini inconvenient? So, become people too have a choice not to look, and if they look and find the women intimidating, it's their problem.

And the dancing lolas with phalluses, are they bastos? Taken in the context of community and of culture, I think not. In fact, what would be better is to go against the cultural norms of bullying people to feel comfortable with sex. I'd go a step further and propose censorship itself is disrespectful because it could result in one into a perfectly innocent aspect of culture. Censorship, we, is bastos when it deprives people of an understanding of their own culture.

I respect the prudes' right to deny reality, to censor their own fantasy realms inside, but I do resent it when they refuse my right to view an aspect of our culture, to laugh and to marvel, and to come away understanding ourselves better.

Nukes for some, not for others?

Rats and mosquitoes

Comments are welcome at ...

'Nicole' needs moral support

LETTERS

THANKS TO JESSE DAVID FOR HIS column, "So what?" (PDI, 6/14/06) Please know in the 21st century, but it is still the views of people in any society that a rape victim might have somehow contributed to the act itself.

Anybody who had seen the Hollywood movie, "The Accused," which was based on a true story, would sympathize with the rape victim. Although the rape victim was not your typical kind of girl (she was rough and real gutsy), she did not deserve to be raped.

The more involved on that fatal night when she took some drugs before going to a local bar or the bay, she could see jokes and acted provocatively like was brutally gang-raped in front of a crowd.

The movie was able to show what rape was really like. Rape doesn't matter on whether one dresses up provocatively or talks sex jokes. Rape is rape and there is no excuse for it. In the movie and in the real life many others it was found that men responsible for that heinous crime were punished.

The scene of "Nicole" is still unfolding. But for her sake, I hope that the people she loves continue to give her the moral support she needs. And I also hope that Nicole gets justice.

—JAMES GONZALES,
ateneo_sig@yahoo.ca

Leftist rebels misjudged GMA's resolve

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is in a fighting mood. We believe that her pedigree—with the communists' refusal to negotiate peace with the government, and with the New People's Army's relentless assault on government forces—is reassuring this.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA find it coming for them. They tend the President's temper wrong. They mistook GMA's reluctance as a sign of weakness.

As far as we can remember, the National Democratic Front, which has been negotiating a truce with the government, has been seeking not to influence the course of peace but its ideological agenda.

Indeed, there is no sense pursuing peace talks with the communists when their legal fronts in Congress are openly and actively supporting destabilization moves and derailing government programs, even as the NPA keeps attacking government forces and sabotaging private development.

Communist fronts are likewise waging a concerted propaganda campaign blaming the government for the deaths of "leftist leaders." There was a time when the CPP-NPA virtually controlled Davao and was purging their ranks of members they suspected to have served government agents. Given this history, is it completely unbelievable that the executioners are being carried out in the tradition of the gory massacres in Davao? And the communists and their allies are capable of bringing the enemy down to the assassins of the United Nations.

After declaring an all-out war against the communist rebels and armed elements, GMA has ordered the purchase of attack helicopters and reminded military and police generals with weapons he accords terrorist, insurgency and organized crime. There are billions of pesos more in savings that the Arroyo administration is spending for countryside development. We believe that this two-pronged approach will solve insurgency in two years and the country's economic ills before 2010. Let's see some action.

—JEROLAN BARRIOS,
mrlandmark@ymail.com

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No curing the sick man

WE CAN ALL DEBATE THE SUBJECT AD nauseam, but the fact remains that no politician in the Philippines wants to shake up the status quo. As long as politicians buy votes and recover the money through corruption, there will be no curing the sick man of Asia. Since time immemorial, he who has the gold rules in the Philippines. There is no will among the politicians to right what is drastically wrong.

The only way that you can straighten out this mess is to make government transactions transparent. Unfortunately, it is the first thing it smashes into. Sometimes, and therefore with big-good will over vote-ed's. If we implement a couple of politicians caught snatching their seats in office, maybe the rest of the crooks would be warned. Unless and until someone with the political will is willing to take on the loud and entrenched opinion, no change can be done.

I have lived in the United States for many years and I have seen a president, vice president, senators, congressmen, mayors, etc., jailed or punished in some other way when they got caught. That is the result of a truly great nation: no one is above the law.—Senior Bernardo, New York (via e-mail)

* * *

No matter how many changes are made in the Constitution or in the form of government, if we don't change the people running the government, all will be useless.

Readjust all the ways and then solutions. They are the ones who make our country sink. Are they not the same people who make the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and all the lofty and latest? Nine they are nothing but changes.

Give penalty to educating our people by allocating a bigger budget for free education. Let them learn self-discipline and to become nationalistic. They must not rely on government help alone. Let them cooperate, too. It is a give-and-take process.

Create a "corruption watch group," any ordinary (especially patriotic), police and government employee who acquires inexplicable, expensive cars and other property without evident means must be investigated at once.

It is only in the Philippines where no politician loses, every loser has been "cheated" and every winner has won through deceit. Let him/her finish his/her term; they all deserved, anyway.

What would happen if we kept on changing our leader? We would have never-ending problems, and the least would be us, the people.

Municipalities and barangays must educate their constituents on the impact of population growth. The more people in them, the less food they get.—Ernesto Sandoval, Saudi Arabia (via e-mail)

* * *

If only the real enemy of the people would be identified. Clean house to do her job, the "child" would cry.

Blind to the little progress the country is achieving despite the barriers of barracks hampering the smooth sailing of the ship of state, these groups of opportunists, which unfortunately include Catholic bishops, deserve to detach themselves from political agendas, and insist on doing the same, as the real problem that plagues the country as a whole.

These groups do not seem to have the courage to do so.

We need a strong seer to link the whys and cause the valid brains! First, Gloria should have them all together, put socks over their heads and then get a baseball bat and do some practice swings on them! Too brutal, you say? But look at what is happening in the country it is being inculcated and nobody seems to notice. Isn't that worse?—Fred (via e-mail)

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TV GUIDE
Friday, July 7, 2006

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Across the NATION

Clashes continue despite GMA order

COTABATO CITY—Clashes continued between militiamen and separatist guerrillas in several Maguindanao towns despite an order from President Macapagal-Arroyo for authorities to keep the fighting from spreading.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front said military troops continued attacking guerrillas.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said the President "has directed us to make all measures that will prevent the escalation of the fighting."

Dureza was in Sharriff Aguak, town in Maguindanao province for a meeting with local officials.

"The President wants us to arrange something for both warring groups. ... So one from (the) administration side has done to ease/calm the situation and attend to the needs of evacuees," he added.

The fighting is likely to continue as 22 fewer rangers declared support to the participants of the June 28 car bomb attack in Shariff Aguak town that killed seven people. Another six suspect MILF members to be behind the attack.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said nothing has been done to stop the fighting.

Gov. Teddy Sinsuat, of the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said he couldn't stop the Maguindanao mayors from sending their militias to Sharriff Aguak.

"I cannot stop the mayors ... because it's part of their support in the campaign of the national government against terrorism," he said.

The governor is a son of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan, the target of the June 28 bombing.

The fighting in Maguindanao started on June 29 when MILF guerrillas fired on security forces who were serving arrest warrants for rebel field commanders Jamil Pasigan and Kadafi Pedalam, in the remote village of Ipilmapaya, in Sharriff Aguak.

The two are suspects in the June 28 bombing.

Investigators linked the recent attacks to another that killed Gen. Pinang Bhayar Emsis Ampatuan, another son of Andal Ampatuan, in 2003.

The Red Cross has arrived in the scene to help evacuees who have made homeless in Sharriff Aguak their temporary homes.

The number of evacuees has reached 28,630, according to Nyby Imbali, social welfare secretary for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Residents reported continuing mortar fires from both sides.

"We are tired of always moving from one place to another because of the fighting," said Saad Ulinga, a resident of Barangay Dalican in Datu Saudi town, where the fighting spread.

He said most houses in the village had been burned. Solar panels panels built with funding from the United States were destroyed.

"We are saddened by the fact that ... our belongings ... are being bombed," said Theresa Cruz-Capellan, an official of the non-government group Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore) that built the solar panels.

Amore installed 150 solar power systems to light houses, streets, mosques, schools and village halls.

Col. Felipe Tabus, chief of the Army's 601th Infantry Brigade, denied his men participated in the fighting.

"Those involved in the fighting were (members of) outlaw, criminal organization (CFO) cum roulled by the local government. We are only securing the national highways and are maintaining a position about two kilometers away from the highway," Tabus said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, shown here (during ceremonies for the 47th Bearing Lanao del Norte, has ordered a stop to the fighting. But the clashes continued. AFP, INQUIRER FILE

CHILDREN play in an Islamic school that was transformed into an evacuation center for residents fleeing clashes between militiamen and MILF guerrillas protesting the murders from arrest in connection with a bomb attack. ALBERT ORALLO

Palace suspends Baguio mayor

By Frank Cimatu and Dennis Datu/dtc
PDI/Northern Luzon Bureau

BAUGIO CITY—BENJAMIN MAGALONG suspended Mayor Braulio Yaranon for a year for grave misconduct and abuse of authority over a controversial pay-parking scheme here.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita signed the suspension order on June 28. A copy of the order was received by Yaranon by mail on Thursday.

"It was in just the start of next and I can assure you that are will win this way," Yaranon told reporters on Thursday.

"The decision of the Office of President to suspend me in office, even after the period of appeal, and no appeal has been perfected," the mayor said in his letter to his deputies Hamit Isnadin.

"This is not a preventive suspension. I will serve all of half the term and will serve until I have exhausted my appeal."

Ermita's order stemmed from a complaint filed by the Jadewell Parking Systems Corp., a private pay-parking company operating in the city.

Jadewell accused Yaranon of violation of the Constitution, dishonesty, oppression, misconduct and abuse of authority in issuing an executive order that allegedly violated the terms of a memorandum of agreement between the city government and Jadewell.

In his order, Ermita said Yaranon was suspended for six months for grave misconduct and for another six months for abuse of authority and oppression. Yaranon should have served the suspension until June 30, 2005.

Ermita said Yaranon committed grave misconduct when he asked executive to disobey a city ordinance concerning public roads as public parking spaces. This is "a complete turnaround of his mandated and sworn duty to implement all ordinances," Ermita said.

He also cited Yaranon's issuance of an executive order on July 8, 2004 enjoining the police to suspend persons (without acts of unlawful) in pursuing its pay-parking business. That, Ermita said, "violated certain basic contractual and vested rights of Jadewell."

Yaranon said he would file his appeal today.

"My will fight Jadewell and those who supported them and others who are responsible for the scam," he said.

He said Jadewell's operations violated the rights of motorists to the presumption of law in the collection of fines and penalties, and the confiscation of vehicles. With a report from Rosalee Catalan, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Pollution destroys ₱50M in tilapia, prawns

MANALOC, DAGUPAN—85 cited after Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruption, the P260-million aquaculture industry in the town has lost about 750 million worth of tilapia and prawns in the last six months due to the worsening pollution of rivers in the province, officials and growers said here on Thursday.

Mayor Edgardo Flores said the condition in the city "is dire to unbearable" as dissolved oxygen content in at least 2,000 hectares of fishponds.

He said polluted water from the rivers of Angeles City, Mexico and Bamban City of Tarlac, Floridablanca in the province's northeastern areas flows into Manalo. Light industries are concentrated in these areas.

Wastes

Wastes from households along Manalo's riverbanks contribute to the deterioration of water quality, Flores said.

Water analysis done by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the Tebel, Colvil, Sapiad and Federico rivers has confirmed the pollution in moderate to severe levels.

Fishermen admitted that the industry has its share of pollutants. While prawn growers produce less wastes as they rely more on home-cooked or organic feeds, the tilapia sector has become more dependent on manufactured feeds that end up as wastes at the pond's bottom.

Pesticide

Also, some growers still use endosulfan mixture as a pesticide, according to Rolando Lingat, provincial officer of the fisheries sector in Carmelitanos.

"We draw water from the same water sources so we would be affected with the problem altogether. The bigger growers would have to do their share by looking at ways by which they could redirect the wastes from their fishponds," said Rudy Velasco, a prawn grower.

Velasco, 55, has not been able to start production for a month now because black water has flowed again from the Dalayap Bangkla River in San Fernando.

Flushed out

"I hope the rains come so that the dirty water would be flushed out toward the Manila Bay," he said.

Flores said the multi-sectoral task force, led by the Manalo River Commission, was going to deal with the problem on two fronts. It regulates production practices in fishponds while it enforces municipal laws in solid waste management.

Fishing industry

The Department of Agriculture, he said, is part of the problem because it has assigned nonagriculture line teachers in regulating the fishing industry here.

The Environment Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has stepped in to help protect the industry.

"We will delineate Manalo and adjoining waters into a water quality management area, help in the establishment of governing board and development of water quality management area plan pursuant to the Clean Water Act," DENR Regional Director Lormelyn Claudio said. Jimmy Arejes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Visayas, Mindanao lotto earns ₱1.6B for gov't

By Jhonnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE PHILIPPINE Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) in the Visayas and Mindanao generated ₱1.6 billion in income lottery betting for the first half of this year.

The revenue was higher by about 8.7 percent than the PCSO's target of ₱1.6 billion and 13.64 percent higher than the ₱1.6 billion generated in the same period last year, according to PCSO Vis-Min manager William Medici.

The biggest source of revenue was Central Visayas as it has the most lotto terminals than the other regions, Medici said.

Central Visayas had 264 lotto terminals compared to 177 of Western Visayas.

Medici said Central Visayans, with Cebuanos as region, of course, is also more progressive compared to the other regions in Visayas and Mindanao.

Medici said he was optimistic that the PCSO Vis-Min will exceed its revenue target of ₱1.6 billion this year.

Medici said 15 percent of the earnings went to winning lottos, 30 percent to charity and 15 percent to PCSO operations.

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CHURCH PROTEST DEFEATED

Poro Pt. casino has permit from Pagcor

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Catholic Church in La Union stood by its opposition to a casino in Poro Point that an official of the Poro Commission Development Authority (PCDA) said had a license to operate from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

The casino opened quietly amid protests from Church leaders in the province.

Ramon Ajoya, executive director and head of the Poro Commission Development Authority (PCDA), said he understood that the two-hour casino, which is owned by International Thoroughbred Gaming Corp. (ITGC), have licenses from the Pagcor.

"I supposed Pagcor has done its part and gave [ITGC] a license to operate a casino," he said.

In Manila, Pagcor sources said the proponents of the casino were told by top officials not to proceed with the project, but insisted on opening the gaming facility.

They said even President Macapagal-Arroyo frowned on the project.

They refused to say, however, how the casino was able to push through despite the opposition from the Palace officials.

Ajoya said ITDC has a land lease contract with the BCDA for the gaming center.

He said no common allowed it to develop 50 hectare tourism complex.

The complex was to also have a golf course, a beach walk, a promenade and villas.

Bishop Ayuso Gilles, of the Diocese of San Fernando, La Union, has objected to the casino project, saying it would spawn "untold evils" like prostitution and drug abuse.

He said "there can never be a justification for promoting gambling under the pretext of generating jobs for the community."

The bishop said that while the casino was supposed to just cater to moneyed clientele, town employees of the provincial government have received gaming cards.

Many said he signed the contract in 2005 on the endorsement of the BCDA board of directors.

According to him, the lease contract required ITGC to secure the necessary permits from government agencies, including Pagcor.

"It's a legal project," he added, referring to the tourism estate.

Sgnn. Mayor Eufemio Eriguel, president of the La Union Mayors' League, said the casino was converting employment to residents in San Fernando and nearby towns like Bauang and Bagnay.

He said the entire should be covered along with 60 other companies, the tourism complex is a new and innovative area where people go to "unwind after a hard day's work."

"We can also have dining in the area so there is a first-class restaurant near the casino," he told the business on Thursday. Despite the ban, *PDI Central Luzon Desk with a report from Peter Le Jalian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SNOOZE

Accommodated guest at the celebration of the 67th Araw ng Lunas del Norte doze off during President Macapagal-Arroyo's speech at the Mindanao Civic Center Gymnasium in Tubod, the province's capital town.

Gov's son faces raps for manhandling vice gov

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Gerthudes Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain Jr. on Wednesday accused that a complainer was being readied against the son of Gov. Vicente Magsaysay who allegedly manhandled and threatened him during a public event in Masinloc, Zambales, on June 27.

Lacbain said he had the incident recorded in the police blotter on July 2 in preparation for the filing of a case against Jerry Vicente Magsaysay, a director of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Magsaysay also known as JV said "no such incident" happened during the town fiesta program at Nito Bulago in barangay Inhobol at about 11 p.m. on June 27.

"If he's filing a case against me, I'm filing a case against him too for stalking up stories," Magsaysay told the business by phone.

Based on the two governor's statement, the Masinloc policeman said Magsaysay sat beside Lacbain after the latter made his speech in which he said he could not match the P12,000 that the governor's son uses from to procure alcohol each night.

Lacbain went on to say that he could not do that because the chief Magsaysay transferred the P15.6-million budget of the new governor's office to the governor's office.

Just as Lacbain returned to his seat at the dais, he observed he the guests on stage, Magsaysay was said to have commented in Filipino: "You don't know how to work along with the provincial board members. That's the reason you can't draw here friends. It's not the fault of the governor."

Magsaysay then sat beside the vice governor.

According to the report, Magsaysay said his left arm to clasp the neck of Lacbain. With his right fist under the table, he also punched the vice governor several times in the ear, with the report said.

Lacbain told police that the governor's son was drunk.

The report quoted Magsaysay as saying to Fil. ipino: "Don't put me on the spot. You're causing me shame. I'm spending my own money and not the capitol's money. You better be careful with your statements. Remember your loved-ones."

The report further said that Magsaysay did these "as if nothing was happening." It added that he went on "squeezing" the neck of Lacbain and "pressing [it] hard." He also pressed hard the right arm of the vice governor the report said.

Your assignations of Magsaysay, identified as Dan Rhodzkie, Larry Edano, Jason Malong and Julito Villamin, stood behind the two officials. The report did not say if the four men acted in unison.

Magsaysay, according to the report, offered to give Lacbain P18,000 and challenged him to witnesses in the audience that it was the vice governor's money. Lacbain did not take the money.

Gov't agency saves ₱123M with reduced workforce

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE —At least P120 million is yearly savings has been drawn by the Technology and Livelihood Resources Center since it trimmed the number of its employees in 2005 under the government's consolidation program, an official said.

TLRC Deputy Director General Dennis Cunanan said 1 Hyperwired to managerial to clerical jobs had availed themselves of early retirement for which the TLRC spent P68.4 million. The bigness would not immediately confirm if the full amounts had already been paid to the retirees.

The agency Cunanan said, earned savings of at least P15.4 million in salaries.

Retaining 93 employees in essential positions, the TLRC has announced its need for big office spaces, generating another P66.6 million savings from rent, he said.

According to him, the TLRC, under Deputy Director Antonio Dela, was the first government corporation that heeded the rationalization program.

Under Executive Order 366, the agency did away with redundant positions and took on servicy measures.

Before, Cunanan said, the TLRC had an office with four clerks or 4 people to answer it's typewriter although it did not have its own printing press.

According to Cunanan, Ortiz was confident that the TLRC area not only going to save on public funds but also help stop the agency from incurring losses.

Losses totalled P203 million in 2004, but totaled P57 million in 5 from this year, Cunanan said.

To make another savings of P4.5 million, the agency is transferring its office from Pasig City to a less expensive office in San Fernando starch, he said.

Officials, he said, were also finding ways to make productive at least P1 billion worth of acquired assets since the agency's creation in 1977. Rosario Bryan, PDI Central Luzon Desk

A 45-ship ambush in Davao City medical and school supplies for donation to newly commodities in Southern Mindanao. The supplies are much needed by some hospitals in the city, particularly the Davao Medical Center.

South Mindanao's biggest hospital suffers shortage of docs, nurses

DAVAO CITY—SOUTHERN MINDANAO'S largest hospital, the Davao Medical Center (DMC), lacks physicians and nurses.

DMC Director Cornelio Cunanan said the hospital had an average of 50,000 patients confined a year and 350 patients received daily at its emergency room.

Ideally, Cunanan said, DMC should have 1,000 personnel. But because of the continuing exodus of physicians training up nursing graduates and nurses abroad, it has only 700 personnel.

"Our greatest handicap is manpower," Cunanan said at the Club 888 forum held at the Manor Bukidnon yesterday.

He said most of DMC's skilled nurses had already gone to work in foreign countries, with the hospital left losing fresh graduates.

"I know these new graduates we have will also be leaving. In the next three years, we will experience the same thing," he said.

He said the problem in manpower should be addressed as else DMC's operations will cease to suffer.

But Cunanan also admits DMC is also facing budgetary problems.

DMC is operating with an over 9500 million budget this year. The budget includes payments for salaries. If the hospital has to meet the hospital's 1,500 personnel, its current budget should be doubled, Cunanan said.

He said the financial assistance provided by the city government amounting to P15 million has helped a lot in the hospital's operations. The city is set to give an additional P5 million through a supplemental budget.

The hospital has earned over P1.88 million last year, Cunanan said.

Jojo Quilwa, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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NEWS

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Joelle tells how Erap wooed her

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE FRIED COMPLAINT FORMER BEAUTY queen Joelle Peláez lodged yesterday against disgraced President Joseph Estrada and seven others at the Makati City Prosecutor's Office also contains details about how the former movie actor, a known womanizer, wooed her.

In her complaint alleging that Estrada duped her and her family of pieces of property worth ₱200 million, Peláez said Estrada reckoned how a love song, gave her a dozen red roses, a gold Rolex watch with diamonds, a BMW car and a condominium unit in Ortigas, Pasig seven years ago.

"It is even clear that this whole episode was devised and masterminded by Estrada when he tried to woo me with various gifts," she said.

Charged with Estrada, were Eamon Ang, alfredo Ramirez, Jesusisa Khakis, Fe Concio, Portia Ilyia, late or before cooking officials of San Miguel Corp., and Lorenzo Tan and Rafael Buenc Jr., United Coconut Planters Bank officials.

Peláez added that the courtship was "subsequently continued" by the San Miguel officials, and the "finishing touches" applied by Tan and Buenc.

"The result of all these machinations and deceptions in the attempt of Estrada to woo my trust and confidence which I ultimately refused, was the loss of my (sic) considerable assets amounting to ₱50 million, more or less."

"The enticement of a dealership with San Miguel Corp. are actually deceptive machinations of the respondents," she stated.

The condominium units were used as collateral for the loan/dealership contract with San Miguel' love allegedly offered to her by Ang upon the instructions of Estrada. The dealership did not materialize, she alleged.

Estrada's men, Peláez claimed, said the complaint were beyond money matter. "For us it is not the damage that is important but the deception committed. [Peláez] also wants to clear her name and that she be given justice," he told reporters yesterday.

Peláez, second runner-up in the 1999 Ms. Pilipinas beauty pageant, declined to speak to reporters when she subscribed to her complaint before Fiscal Gualberto Yolindo Jr., 4th assistant city prosecutor yesterday afternoon.

Peláez was expected to file her complaint at around 1 p.m. yesterday, but she showed up three hours later. Aid said the delay was an indirect result of death threats Peláez received hours before the filing of the case.

Peláez was also not feeling well, he said. "She fainted this morning when she woke up," he added.

Peláez appeared in court yesterday with armed escorts.

COMPLAINANT Joelle Peláez crosses the street after filing her case against Joseph Estrada.

Cops seize fake Viagra

POLICE SEIZED YESTERDAY SOME P1.2 million worth of allegedly fake Viagra pills in Manila. Supt. Benjamin de los Santos said his men raided seven pharmacies and a warehouse in Binondo on the strength of a warrant issued by a Manila court. "We acted based on the complaint of Pfizer," said de los Santos, head of a criminal investigation and detection group. He said the pills, contained in 3,127 boxes, were allegedly from China.

"Fliter satellite could be deadly."

The officer and his men had reported arrests but were still on their way to Camp Crame.

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Stude in hospital after jump

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A STUDENT OF THE DON BOSCO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE in Makati City tried to kill himself by jumping from the roof of the school gymnasium while classes were ongoing yesterday morning.

Richard Lopez, 19, was rushed to the Makati Medical Center at 9:30 a.m. after the incident, said PNP Chief Supt. [illegible]

25 resign from PNU posts

But protesting officials to stay on as teachers

By Tina G. Santos

TWENTY-FIVE OFFICIALS OF THE STATE-RUN Philippine Normal University (PNU) yesterday resigned from their administrative posts as they continued to protest the appointment of lawyer Lutgarde Barbo as the school's new president.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Estrellano de Guzman led other officials, including the deans and heads of the different colleges and departments, in the mass resignation, the latest in a series of protests launched by teachers, officials and students.

"This is the most ethical way to show our protest. This is a strong signal that we are really against the decision of the Board of Regents (BOR)," De Guzman said.

Those who resigned comprise the majority of the university's academic officials. They will, however, continue to teach because their primary members of the faculty. "We can still teach because we still carry our academic ranks. We just resigned from our administrative positions," he clarified to meet even the minimum standards set for the post, including administrative experience in teacher education or a related field and a doctorate degree.

The BOR, who met on Wednesday to discuss the controversy, is expected to issue its decision today.

But De Guzman said they had learned from a reliable source that the board would uphold its decision making Barbo president.

"Resigning is our last line of defense to demonstrate that we are all together and are against the BOR decision," she said, adding that the resignations could also serve as a learning experience for the PNU community.

NBI nabs 2 suspected illegal recruiters

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO SUSPECTED ILLEGAL RECRUITERS were arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in an entrapment operation in Pasay City on Monday for sending young women to Cyprus to work as "entertainers."

Augusto Raul Blanchan, also known as "Emmanuel Hollevan" or "Myles," of Sampaloc, Manila, and Dominador "Dominic" delos Reyes, of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, were brought for inquest proceedings to the Department of Justice, according to PIBI Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTRAD) chief Ito Ditsend Lavin.

The suspects face charges of estafa and for violating the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, Migrant Workers Act and Overseas Act of 1995, according to Lavin. A third suspect, Nene Flores of Barangay San Antonio, Commonwealth, Quezon City, remains at large.

An investigation conducted by the NBI-AH-TRAD showed that the suspects first recruited complainant Irma Pingol in November 2005 to work as an entertainer in Cyprus with a monthly salary of P120,000.

Blanchan and his companions allegedly required Pingol to pay P88,638 in processing and placement fees.

"The subjects then briefed the suspected complainant, who applied as a singer, that she was supposed to work as a male dancer in a Cyprus club," NBI-AHTRAD Special Investigator Sonnie Ian Solano said in his report.

When the complainant found out that the suspects were not licensed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration for employment abroad, she decided to seek the NBI's help on Monday the day of her departure for Cyprus.

Pingol informed the NBI that Blanchan, who had asked her to pay an additional P2,700, would be waiting for her at a restaurant inside the Pasay Ipapto International Airport Phase 1 at around 12:30 p.m. Monday, and Delos Reyes were arrested while accepting marked money from the complainant, the report said.

Banz Bañez: A friendship's tale retold

BOOKEND, HE HAS KNOWN TUVERA UPA church at the drop of a hat.

"Nag-surprise pa lang kami, nakalimutan na niya," ("We would be on his 80th sketch while we were just on our 50th") said Tony Vergara about classmate and close friend Fernando "Banz" Bañez.

"He was a man in perpetual motion, pun-nated. Give him a piece of paper, sender na 'yun. If he's on his mood, signed Pete Castaldo, another classmate at the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts in the '50s.

It was a fine afternoon spent reminiscing about top advertising man and painter Banz who passed on in 2000, as two commercial art (advertising) majors remembered. Some heady days as the UP reborn it was still an enclave of colorful eccentrics, unschooled poets mouthing over-lun beers, producers newly returned from ivy league campuses or poetry-writing workshops, and condo-heads from convent schools eager to experiment with free-dome-newly acquired.

Vergara and Castaldo are two of five artists whose works will be part of an exhibit that opens today at the Virgin Islands on the UP Diliman campus honoring their late classmate and "friend" of the Beta Sigma fraternity that is marking its 40th founding anniversary on July 14. The paintings of Beta Sigmans Adi Sarmo-Santos, Jess Abueva and Francisco Monzon and 15 pieces by Banz will be shown at the exhibit titled "Beyond Bookends," part of a seven-day round of activities that began with a mooncake today and ends with a jubilee ball on the 14th.

The conversation was light; both Vergara and Castaldo have good-glass memories. It was not difficult to dredge for vignettes about his wife Banz, one of the many boys from the provinces hardly out of their home-cages to test their pluck against their more sophisticated urban counterparts in the school year of 1957.

"Mahiyo at madaling matipuhan," ("He was playful and made friends easily") said Banz, who moved on after graduation to become an adman for Ace Compton, Phil Press and McCann Erickson before finding a teaching job, as did Banz, at the College of the Holy Spirit's Fine Arts department.

Banz was easily the most popular of the Beta Sigma boys who made a beeline for his San Juan home for their personalized "Mahoney," a cartoon figure he made famous—and which he continued to draw—even when he was already one of the university, for Banz who had turned professionals. "Libre na ang alcohol, libre pati merienda sa bahay nila," (The alcohol was free, as well as the snack, said Tony Castaldo, who have worked in the pre-motion departments of Procter and Gallea, until Banz, a prolific painter known for his minute associates he called Beatopics, was the life of the party as roommate, "Not certainly not a comedian. He had one, but I won't say who. I could get sued!" Banz was everyone's big brother, and was very good as counseling. Though his advice was mostly conditional, said Castaldo, he came on as the good guy.

Banz' wife and best friend Linda, who is becoming unready in this remembrance of things past, added that she was surprised when friends told her at his wake that Banz had saved many a wobbly marriage from entering the realm of separation or annulment.

One lady, in tears, had even confessed to her that Banz had been there for her at the right time when he felt suicidal. "If Banz had not been around at home, I would have killed myself," she quoted the man as saying.

The "father confessor" also loved to create bizarre masks after a hard day's work. Linda recalled that when Frank Sinatra was in town for a concert, Banz was scandalized he snapped a ticket worth P15,000 for a painting of his so he could savor the singing legend up close.

But the man who was everybody's friend was remembered by his friends when he took off his adman's cloak. "Maybe it is because I have a tattooing heart," he would tell his wife.

Banz lived well, and paid close attention to nature-within and without with all his heart.

Estrel G. Ejercuap

ALCIDES Casatada and Vergara with Linda Cline-monument. Below: Banz poses with one of his famous mosaics.

Stude in hospital ...

Fernando Ad

ucts of the Filipino Community Hospital 4. "He is still under observation at the hospital," he added.

Llanes, a scholar taking up re-Signation and air-conditioning at the institute, landed on his car-rooks before his back hit the pave-ment. He was conscious when a

Mabili Plateau brought him to the hospital.

Llanes's elder brother, John, who teaches in the same school, notified police that he saw his siblings in the car of the 30-foot high tumbling-tes the latter pursued.

He added that he last saw his wife his brother, who had just arrived from Germany but wanted to fill himself.

DID YOU KNOW

The National Capital Region (NCR) was established by virtue of Presidential Decree 1396 signed by President Ferdinand Marcos on June 2, 1975. The decree declared Metro Manila a region and placed it under the Department of Human Settlements. With 14 cities and three municipalities, the NCR is the most urbanized of all administrative regions in the country. The cities are: Manila, Quezon, Caloocan, Makati, Mandaluyong, Las Piñas, Pasig, Montinlupa, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Muntinlupa and Taguig. The three municipalities are Navotas, Pateros and San Juan. Mel Lawrence di Guzman, PEI Research

METROBRIEFS

'Just a reshuffle'

THE MINDORA City Police welcomed a new police chief in a simple turnover ceremony yesterday afternoon. Supt. Dolore Ramos of the Batangas Capital Town Police Office (BCTPO) Regional Intelligence Special Operations Office replaced Senior Supt. Manuel Escriba, who had served the city for almost a year. Escriba, who will reported by tomorrow a position at the national police headquarters in Camp Crame, denied reports that he was "sacked" because he was accused of extortion. "That is not true. That is very disheartening especially after all my hard work here," he said yesterday. "That is not the reason he was taken out of the city police," BCTPO director Chief Superintendent told reporters. "I think it was just a routine reshuffle," Mayor Marides Fernandez told the reporters.

Vince C. Tenio Jr

Transport leader killed

A TRANSPORT group leader was shot dead on Wednesday afternoon by two motorcycle-riding gunmen in Bagumbong Road, Caloocan City. Rolando Salangsan, 48, was declared dead on arrival the Novaliches Hospital while his wife, Rosalinda, 46, was seriously injured. Salangsan had replaced Roy Bautista as president of the Tricycle Drivers Association in Barangay Bagumbong. Caloocan police the latter was killed by still unidentified gunmen almost a year ago. Investigators said they got to be worried. "We have yet to determine the motive of the killing," said Chief Insp. Jose Valencia, head of the city's investigation unit.

Nancy C. Carvajal

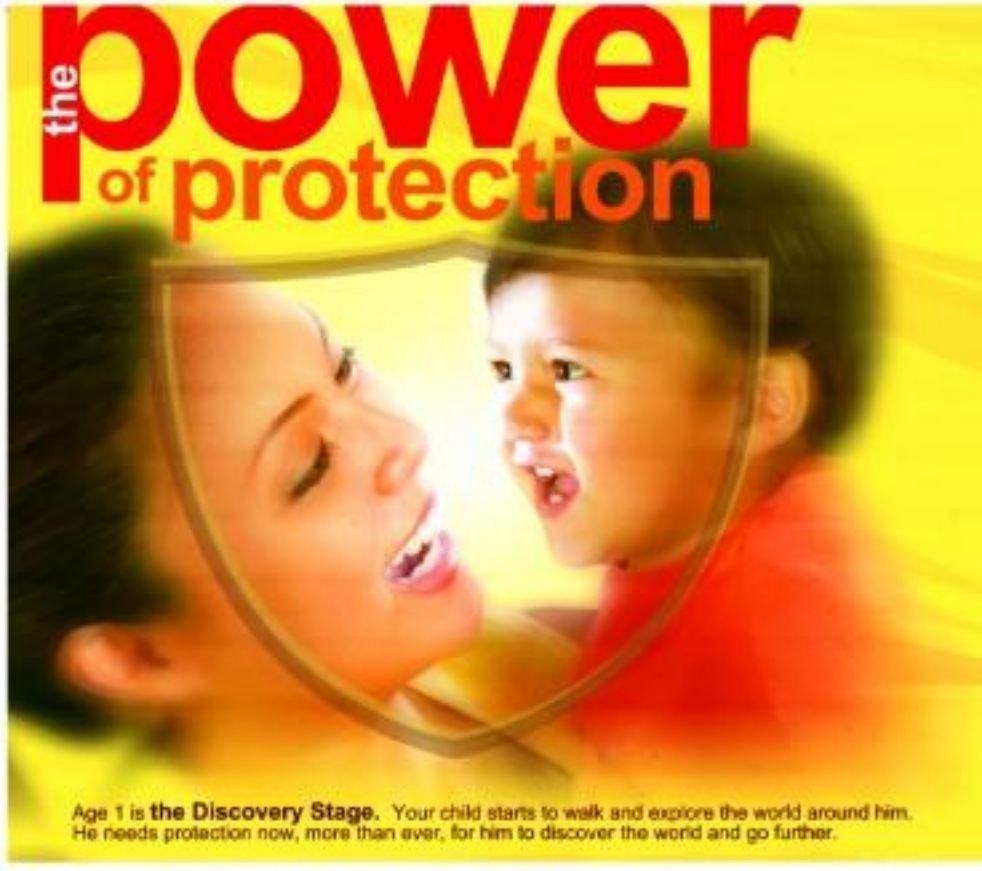
Fire hits junk shop

FIRE(S) gripped a neighborhood in Las Piñas City after a fire hit a junk shop shortly before midnight Wednesday. No one was hurt in the incident. According to city fire marshal Senior Insp. Robert Perez, the fire could have been triggered by an unattended kerosene lamp. "The owner said they did not have electricity when the fire broke out," Perez told the reporter yesterday. He estimated the damages at P150,000.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Soroptimist induction

PASAY Cecilia, senior correspondent and former Manila Bulletin columnist will be inducted today as president of the Soroptimist International Manila Sunrise Bay Inc. (SIMBI). Slated to be inducted are Helen, president-elect (2006-2008); Elvie Bagadion, 1st vice president; Maya Pelaez, 2nd vice president; Tessie Gamboa, recording secretary; Fely Ilocip, corresponding secretary; Sylvia Evangelista, treasurer; Mila Saludes, assistant treasurer; Julie Bertuso, auditor; Gloria Mallorca, P.R.O.; Gaby de Jesus, Ida Morales, Ivy Espino, Vilma Lluch, and Alicia Magtoto, directors. The inductees will be held at 6 p.m. at the Manila Pavilion Hotel.



Enron's Ken Lay dies awaiting fraud sentencing

Lay in April photo.

WASHINGTON—ENRON founder Kenneth Lay, convicted of fraud and conspiracy in one of the largest corporate scandals in US history, died Wednesday while awaiting what was expected to be a long prison sentence.

Lay, 64, was pronounced dead at a hospital in the mountain resort town of Aspen, Colorado, early Wednesday after a medical emergency, the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office said.

An autopsy determined he had died of heart disease and found no evidence of foul play, the coroner's office said at a press conference.

"Apparently, his heart simply gave out," Steve Sibold, a spokesperson of the First Methodist Church Houston, the church Lay attended, said in a message to church members.

"Right now the family and doctor close to him are just in shock," Sibold told AFP in a telephone interview. "He looked to be in good health and positive spirits. Some of us saw him this morning."

The former Enron chairman and chief executive had been with his wife Linda on a vacation home in Aspen, the only place he was allowed to travel pending his sentencing in federal court in Houston, Texas.

Lay and former Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling, 52, were convicted of aiding an accounting scheme to deceive investors over Enron's crumbling finances prior to what became the time the largest corporate bankruptcy in US history.

Sentencing for Lay and Skilling had been set for October 2001, Lay told some 2500 million in Enron stock owners in an angry conference of the company to keep buying shares as the company battled toward collapse in late 2001.

Although Lay had been known for his smooth demeanor, he became irritated during his trial testimony and observers said he failed to persuade jurors of his innocence.

Lay maintained his innocence after the trial, arguing that Enron was a financial company brought down by a cash crunch when the company's credit line dried up.

"I firmly believe that I am innocent of the charges against me, as I have said from day one," Lay said on his personal website after the verdict. "I still firmly believe that to this day. I will continue to work diligently with my legal team to prove this."

Lay's death came as the US Department of Justice was preparing to seize the assets of Lay and Skilling following their conviction. The Washington Post reported that the government was seeking over $150 million from the two executives, arguing that their homes and other assets were acquired through fraud. AFP

Israel expands Gaza offensive

GAZA—ISRAELI FORCES SEIZED CONTROL of former Jewish settlements in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday, effectively carving out a buffer zone after Hamas militants militants fired rockets into a major Israeli city.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert ordered the occupation of the Gaza offensive, which began last week with the main goal of bringing home a captured soldier, after nightfall. "Dozens" rockets hit Ashkelon, 13 km inside Israel.

Backed by the Kfir helicopter gunships, tanks moved into the ruins of three of the 21 Jewish settlements evacuated when Israel left Gaza last summer after 38 years of occupation.

Rockets on cities fired from the former settlements.

One Hamas militant was killed in an air strike in southern Gaza. Palestinian gunmen took up positions and planted bombs, preparing to confront the Israeli army.

"Our presence there doesn't mean that we intend to remain in the Gaza Strip. We simply want to prevent firing at our towns," National Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, a member of Olmert's security Cabinet, told Israeli Army Radio.

The military said in a statement Israeli forces would stay in the area "until the completion of their mission" and called on Palestinian civilians to stay clear of armed zones.

Israeli political sources said Olmert had effectively decided to carve out a buffer zone to halt rocket attacks. But the prime minister's office said the offensive would not amount to reoccupying parts of the strip long-term.

Sealers his withdraw, a city of 115,000, on Tuesday and Wednesday it was the furthest point he by the military, which came few casualties but spread panic.

A CONVOY of Israeli Army armored vehicles advances toward the northern Gaza Strip near the Israeli village Nahal Oz on Thursday, July 6.

The stepped-up incursion in northern Gaza has intensified pressure on the Hamas-led government, already facing Israeli threats over the abduction of Cpl. Gilad Shalit on June 25.

Hamas gunmen were among those who seized him.

"We won't stick to the Gaza swamp, but will enter any necessary area to carry out our mission," Defense Minister Amir Peretz said on Wednesday.

The Gaza violence has dampened enthusiasm for Olmert's plan to give up some isolated settlements in the occupied West Bank, while strengthening the main three there. Olmert's opponents say the haven from Gaza to that giving up land story not bring peace.

Palestinians seek to leave the West Bank and Gaza, captured in a 1967 war, for a state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital. Hamas is sworn to destroy Israel.

Israeli aircraft kept up nightly raids on Gaza, firing missiles at militant training camps and roads.

A total of 11 Palestinians, almost all of them militants, have been killed since the offensive began. Israel has also detained dozens of Hamas officials, applying pressure to the government already under an international oil embargo.

Hamas accuses Israel of trying to topple its elected administration, an outcome that would certainly please Israeli leaders. President Mahmoud Abbas, a moderate from the Fatah faction, has also urged Israel to stop its operations. Reuters

3 accused of trying to sell Coke secrets to Pepsi

WASHINGTON—US AUTHORITIES WEDNESday charged three people with a dash and dog, gave scheme to sell secrets from Coca-Cola to rival drink arch-rival PepsiCo, which helped to the investigation.

The justice department said a criminal complaint named Edmond Dolmaoy, 43, and Joya Williams, 41, both of Georgia, and Ibrahim Dimson, 38, of New York, with wire fraud and unlawfully stealing and selling trade secrets from The Coca-Cola Co.

The theft of "confidential" information from Coca-Cola sparked an FBI investigation with an undercover agent offering $1.5 million in cash.

The investigation was launched after Pepsi-Co warned over to its rule rival a letter in May from a person identifying himself as "Dirk," who claimed to be employed at a high level with Coca-Cola and offered "very detailed and confidential information," a justice department statement said.

Coca-Cola contacted the FBI, which launched the probe leading to the arrests.

PepsiCo senior vice president for public relations Mark Dollhen confirmed that his company alerted Coke to the scheme.

"We only did what any responsible company would do," Dollhen told AFP. "Competition can be tough, but we must always be fair and legal."

The three were to appear before a magistrate in Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday.

"We are committed to protecting the intellectual property that is so critical to the success our corporate citizens to remain successful in the 21st century economy," US Attorney David Nahmias said.

"Theft of valuable trade secrets will not be tolerated, nor by the justice department and nor even by competitors, as this case shows. We commend PepsiCo's good corporate citizenship. The Coca-Cola Co's immediate referral to law enforcement and subsequent cooperation."

According to authorities, an FBI undercover agent met June 28 with Dimson, who was posing as "Dirk" at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta. AFP

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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Queco

Leftist now leads in Mexico recount

OBRADOR

MEXICO CITY—A recount of Mexico's presidential vote gave the advantage to a fiery leftist early in the day on Wednesday but around midnight a conservative former energy minister was gaining as Mexicans headed into a fourth day without knowing who their next leader would be.

In scenes reminiscent of the Florida recount in the US presidential vote in 2000, first one candidate and then the other had the upper hand as the recount proceeded into early Thursday.

Leftist anti-poverty campaigner Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador was ahead all day but then saw his lead cut back to a sliver late on Wednesday.

With barrels supporters of former Energy Minister Felipe Calderon, many waving blue, white and orange flags in joy, began celebrating at the ruling National Action Party offices around midnight as he appeared to be rapidly gaining ground as results came in from north and west Mexico, his strongholds.

Officials said it was still too close to declare a winner.

With 95 percent of polling station reporting results of their scanned ballots, Lopez Obrador, a former mayor of Mexico City, led Calderon with 0.6 percentage points.

Calderon was judged to have won a preliminary count earlier this week by 0.6 percentage points, but Lopez Obrador cried foul and protesters broke out in the capital to press claims that he won the vidas of fraud.

Lopez Obrador warned of troubles if the recount was not handled properly. "The stability of the country is in stake."

Markets took another plunge a percent and in pesos fell against the dollar because of the political tension.

The fervent-tempered Calderon is a pro-business lawyer and would be an ally of the United States in Latin America, where left-wing leaders critical of Washington have taken power in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay and Venezuela in recent years.

Lopez Obrador says he wants good relations with Washington but has promised to renegotiate a North American trade pact to block cheap US corn and beans entering Mexico as of 2008.

"It's more exciting than the World Cup," said Jovanino Aguirre Cruz, a Lopez Obrador lawyer watching the count of the recount on television at a bar in the city of Puebla. Reuters

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WORLDBRIEFS

13 killed in suicide attack on Iran pilgrims in Iraq

KUT—A suicide car bomber blasted two coachloads of Iranian pilgrims outside a Shiite shrine shrine in Iraq at dawn on Thursday, killing 13 people and wounding 41, police and hospital sources said. The attack came a day after the US military warned that al-Qaida's supporters could launch a new campaign of car bombings. The bomber drove his car between the two buses as coaches as they a river of the Muthanna-Tamar shrine in Kufa, a religious center on the outskirts of the main Shiite holy city of Najaf, 160 km south of Baghdad, police said. There were several children, who make a living attending wealthy pilgrims in radical the shrine, were also caught in the blast. Many sleep there, waiting for business. Reuters

Dodos killed by natural disaster, scientists say

PORT LOUIS—Scientists who unearthed a mass dodo grave in Mauritius say they have found evidence showing the birds were killed by a natural disaster long before humans arrived on the Indian Ocean island. Most theories about how the dodo became extinct blame early settlers who hunted the plump flightless bird on the Indian Ocean island in the 16th century and hunted it relentlessly. "There are indications that this fossil-rich layer represents the result of natural disaster wiping out a significant part of the dodo ecology," a statement by the researchers said. While the latest findings does not disprove the human theory, the scientists also contended there was a mass dodo death, possibly caused by a cyclone or flood, pre-dating the arrival of humans. Georges Fun Kwan, senior fossil officer, told Reuters, "The fact that there are such a wide range of animals there, small and big ones, suggests that there was a sudden natural disaster," Fun Kwan said. "The many grave also shows no domestic animals, so it is prior to the arrival of man." The scientists said the dodos were not frightened of the human settlers who hunted it and destroyed the forests that provided its habitat. Passing ships also brought rats, which ate the birds' eggs located in nests on the ground. Reuters

Crew probes Discovery for damage after launch

HOUSTON—Astronauts aboard space shuttle Discovery conducted a painstaking inspection of their spacecraft on Wednesday, using a robot-tailed 15-foot arm to look for damage after launch from Florida on a mission critical to the shuttle program's future. Some astronauts said the foot of insulating foam flew off the orbiter's problem-plagued fuel tank during Sunday's Fourth of July takeoff, but that Discovery looked to be in good shape. The shuttle's seven crew members spent their first full day in orbit checking vulnerable parts of the ship's heat shield for any sign of damage from possible debris impacts during Sunday's liftoff. Foam shedding from the fuel tank triggered the 2003 Columbia disaster, the problem mission redoing the first post-Columbia mission last year. "Overall, the tank performance was really outstanding," flight director John Shannon told reporters in a briefing late on Wednesday. Before Discovery's flight, these engineers removed two long foam-covering brackets from the tank, designed to reduce ice and trailer wires and extended sensitive heat-shield brackets that previously had been shielded by the debutants. Reuters

Italian spy chiefs arrested

ROME—Two Italian spy chiefs were arrested on Wednesday and a judge issued arrest warrants for two Americans over the alleged CIA kidnapping of a terrorist suspect in Milan in 2003, officials said. Three of the three have been alleged CIA agents and the courts are not on a 67-month trial here in Rome, another Italy, which prosecutors believe was sent to secretly transfer the Muslim cleric out of Italy. A statement from the Milan prosecutor's office said police arrested Marco Mancini, the No. 2 of Italy's foreign military intelligence agency, and were holding him in jail on his alleged role in the kidnap. Another Rome official was placed under house arrest. The police swoop has all the hallmarks to the 2003 abduction of Imam Abu Omar. Prosecutors say he was seized by a CIA-led team on a Milan street to treat daylight, bundled into a car and driven to the Aviano air base. He was then flown to Egypt and, according to Masri, tortured under questioning. An Italian court has already issued arrest warrants for 22 suspected US agents over the abduction. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE
Federer cruises to semis/A26

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Purefoods shoots for 2-0 lead

GAME TODAY's Quezon Ambulance
7:30p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull (Game 3, best-of-seven finals)
Game 1—Purefoods 2, Red Bull 0/A-27

By Jun Navarro

ASIDE FROM GAINING headway, a victory in the opener of a long series has no other compelling significance.

That's why Purefoods will be facing Red Bull in Game 3 today at the Quezon Ambulance with the same conviction it showed at the start of their best-of-seven championship duel Wednesday night.

"It's nice to go up 1-and-0, but the only advantage I can see is that we only had a good start," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, after the Giants survived the Bulls, 104-97, in Game 1 of the Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup Finals.

"At least we only have to win three games now while Red Bull still has to win four."

Ervey Raymundo nailed a floater than 15 feet out with 50.9 seconds left to preserve the lastminute heroics of Richard 'Ato and the Giants' storming from in the first half.

"The mistake was we only competed in the second half," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "That's the big lesson we've learned and we'll certainly play with a lot more energy specially at the start on Friday."

The Bulls seemed back from it's grave down in the third quarter and ate up the whiteboard before Jayjay Lucero and Larry Rosario.

"We caught up with Purefoods but a few breaks went against us," said Guiao, who is in his first all-Filipino championship stint. "The positive side of it was, if we didn't give up it's gonna, we had a pretty good chance of winning.

"We have to compete for 48 minutes, not just 24."

Guiao said that men are going for a square ride among following Red Bull's win over the entire Purefoods squad in the Fiesta Conference last February.

After Sunday's Game 1, won

PUREFOODS' Jun Limpot charges into Leo Najorda of Red Bull in Game 1 of the PBA Finals at the Big Dome.

section among the top MVP contenders also became evi

Raymundo finished with double-double figures of 20 points and 19 rebounds. James Yap scored 26 before fouling out, while Segade and Villanueva contributed for 13 points.

"Nobody will give us luck," said Gregorio, who also credited his bench for the game 1 victory. "The most important thing for us really is to find ways to win in the end."

Wesley Jane Simon, Arnold Gamboa and Ford Arnaiz had several crucial rebounding moments filling the shoes of the injury Ney Castillo, Roger Yap and Mark Pingris.

Pingris, who only had four points and four rebounds in 35 minutes, was taken out of his comfort zone as he stalled Segade all night.

"We have to challenge Red Bull to a shooting match but some adjusting time, we have to make the steps," said Gregorio. "Making the necessary steps is our statement and being complacent is our something kinds."

LARIOS: His regrets

Larios: Pacman 'like a machine'

"MANNY PACQUIAO is a great boxer, and although I felt that I had taken the third round, I could not follow through."

The former World Boxing Council superbantamweight praised Pacquiao's performance, citing the Filipino southpaw's strength and impressive speed in an interview with Bob Larios upon his arrival in Manila yesterday.

"I was really that impressed by his attitude," Larios said, adding he noted from the opponent's "very fluid" punches and "great physical strength."

"I has, well, lost no regret," added Larios, who suffered two knockdowns and lost by unanimous decision to Pacquiao in their 12-round fight for the Filipino's WBC International super featherweight title last Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. Sabrina Jaguenday, Cordillera

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Ateneo Eagles more balanced minus Tenorio

By Jasmine W. Payo

CAN UNPRECEDENTLY QUALIFIED Ateneo blue Eagles rule the UAAP men's basketball title?

While the departure of team captain Jason Tenorio, the Eagles will be leaning on a bunch of veterans who played in the shadow of the star point guard.

But for Ateneo coach Norman Black, there's still a good thing.

"We'll be a little more difficult to read this year," said Black. "We're trying to develop a personality where we can win fast and we can win slow."

The Eagles are expecting more heads-down from forward JC Intal, Ateneo's King Eagle this season.

Toronto's dribbledump, Marby Sinahon, has been elevated to the starting five, along with guard Chris Tiu, sophomore center Rabih Al-Hakim and 6'8 first year forward Doug Kramer.

"We've a more balanced team this year," said Black. "We don't have to rely on one player to determine the outcome of the game."

The 6-foot-4 Intal was the team's second best scorer last season at 9 points, last year, averaging 10.1 points and 6.6 rebounds.

Kramer also displayed impressive form, scoring 8 points and 6.4 rebounds for the Eagles, who lost in semi-final to Salle in the Final Four.

"We're less talented than we were last year," noted Black. "Each team is a different story. Last year was the year of LA. We're a different team now. One person doesn't really determine the success of a program or a team. We have other returning players who are ready to step up."

The Eagles have only two freshmen this season... guard Eric Salamat, who was the Hoops Most Valuable Player pilots at 6th NCAA juniors champion San Sebastian, and shooter Ismae Mendoza from Ateneo Bella.

"We want to up the tempo, we want to run," said Black. "We want to pressure the ball defensively. We don't want to be stuck with a half court offense. We want to push it and run game."

"We also want to utilize our size," added Black. "We're one of the biggest teams in the UAAP, but the fans don't. I've been (with Ateneo) for ten years now. He gets more limelight with my system."

BLACK: We're less

Rookies set to stir Lions vs Cardinals

SAN BEDA'S prized Nigerian rookie Samuel Ekwe (right) maneuvers in the paint with St. Benilde's Jeffrey Libunao in a recent game.

STRIVING ITS HOPES ON two standing rookies, San Beda gone for its third straight victory against Mapua once the St. Benilde road faces formidable attempt to bounce back today in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Ekwe will be on twostep center Nigerian Samuel Ekwe and diving Bernardo guard Reg Jeruta robed when the Red Lions face the Cardinals at 4 p.m., after the 2 p.m. match between the Olivarez and the Stags.

The 22-year-old Ekwe, a marketing sophomore, has been getting attention because of his fine moves down low which his turnaround jumpers are hardly challenged.

"There are a lot possibilities we are facing with this guy around," said San Beda coach Eric Reed of the 6-foot-9 Ekwe, who was brought to the team on last year by a Filipino patron and is averaging 14 points, 13 rebounds, two assists and nine minutes.

The 6-foot Jeruta's barreling drives are slowly earning him respect in a team that includes big names like Regie Herrera and Yousif Aljamal. The former Holy Cross crib guard is averaging 12 points and 7 rebounds per game.

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	3	0
FEU	3	0
San Beda	2	1
Mapua	1	1
Perpetual	1	2
St. Benilde	1	2
U. Salvador	0	3
JRU	0	3

GAMES TODAY (MOA)
4 p.m. — St. Benilde vs. San Beda
6 p.m. — Mapua vs. Perpetual

Ayala Skydeck
4 p.m. — Letran vs. JRU
6 p.m. — FEU vs. U. Salvador

Beda said that since the lineup is a combination of old heads and fresh faces, the team's campaign is anchored on greater teamwork.

Both the Stags and the Olivarez are hoping to recover that ground following their reverse defeats at the Lions (71-67) and the Letran Knights (64-58), respectively.

More: Archibong Reyes

Irok lady booters grab Futsal solo lead

IRON FOOTBALL CLUB PITE MARGES Anni scoring twice, humbled Far Eastern U, 6-2, to grab the lead in the women's division of the 2006 Alaska Futsal Championship at the Adelso Sports SMAP at The Fort (1 Taguig City).

Francine Ibrahi, Ina Bangayan, Simonette Gaspar and Ma Villa chipped in a goal each to hand Irok its third win in as many matches in the event sponsored by Alaska in cooperation with the Philippine Football Federation.

FEU absorbed its first setback in four matches and fell into a tie with a 3-0-1 win-draw-loss record for second place with idle defending champion La Salle.

Vikings FC whipped Lea Instruction, while Instruction College, LLG in other women's matches. Vikings moved up to fifth in a tie with defunct 600 (2-1-1), while Superfriends improved with a 2-2-1 card.

Superfriends practically turned with thirteen as Marielle Benitez produced six goals and Kristine Ann Garcia scored five. Margaret Rasonda added another goal for Superfriends.

Meanwhile, the Maroons A, University of Asia & the Pacific, Arthurs Lane and Lions FC have moved out unscathed wins over opposites foes in the men's side.

Reinforced Jellosos scored four goals for the Maroons A, which climbed to first seat in the men's Second Division-A at the expense of Lea Warriors, 10-1.

Lee Shwegyaw absorbed its first defeat against a single win in the Semestral of the Series.

Under reinforced Pagoy, 19-0, for its second win in as many matches in men's Second Division-A. Mags' duo Grabowski led the Dragons' assault with five goals while Dodjie Garcia had two.

In Second Division-B, Arthurs Lane topped Maroons B, 4-0, behind Ryan Moya and Norman Aquino, while Lions FC trounced Pagoy, 13-2.

Arthurs Lane climbed to second spot with a 2-1-0-1 mark, with Lions FC a close third with a 2-1-1 card. Maroons B dropped to fifth (1-0-2), while Thunbar is still winless after four games.

Bermejo, Batuigas collide for JVC elite crown

GAMES TODAY (ARANETA)
7 p.m. — Bermejo vs. Batuigas (game three)
Winner — to face Ramon Jacinto (GMA, MTRCB)
(Best-of-3 championship series; GMA, MTRCB)

ARELIS BERMEJO OF FRANCISCIA SEBERIO AND RINA Batuigas of Iloilo threatened their respective Cebu rivals to form a showdown for the Indies crown in the title division of the P1 million JVC Open Badminton Championships in this city yesterday.

The 16-year-old Bermejo, a silver medalist in last year's junior category of this event sponsored by JVC (Philippines), Inc., fished Deseree Almagtong of Mindoro, 15-11, 21-13, 16, while Batuigas came through with big victories in the finals over Jennylyn Rubenecia Quinsay, 15-21, 19-21, 17-14.

They dispute the title and the top purse of P151,000 tomorrow along with the finals in the elite masters, veterans masters and veterans men pro starting at 11 a.m.

Berths to the finals in the corporate divisions are still being disputed as preseason title defending champion Philippine Bus Building AB Lenses and Robinsons Land clashing with Mendoza.

Meanwhile, undrafted action in the elite masters and juniors divisions will be played today starting at noon with Jennylyn Quinsay and Jarod Parsons and Christopher Flores hoping to salvage an all-Iloilo finale in the semi-pro event.

Lenses, a veteran international, takes on former champions Ian Perezosa and Berman Bachelorette Club while Flores clashes with Bambadoro's Melvin Llanes in the other semis match.

Solons take cudgels for exploited boxers

CLEAN LIVING

Manuel P. Mejia

HIDDEN ON THE INSIDE PAGES OF THE NEWSpapers is the story about House Bill 5669 aimed at preventing the welfare of the country's professional boxers.

Called the Pinoy Ginete Boxing Reform Act of 2006, it is authored by Pasig City Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski Jr. and backed by Quezon City Rep. Annie Susano, Laboscay City Rep. Lucas Maligalas and Pangasinan Rep. Genaro Magsaysay. HB 5669 is similar to the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act of the United States, a landmark measure which protects pro boxers not only from ring injuries but also from the machinations of greedy and scheming managers and promoters.

HB 5669 could very well save lives a premise often overlooked by hapless boxers fresh of schools and brain poor and unschooled, because it would free them from the clutches of exploitative managers and promoters.

"We regularly read of scores of boxers being exploited, of prizefighters not being paid their purses, of boxers being pitted against ring mismatches, of the Gerry and Samarenzo Boxing Gyms suppressing the one-sided card and then limiting the young prospects' ability when it is supposed to ensure the public that every promotion is balanced and contributes to the enhancement of public interest in pro boxing.

When we read about the boxers' sad plight, we experience a series of outrage, disbelief, indignation and anger...and we ask ourselves why things like this happen. Sadly, if it's a crime, it often has been. But since when has cruel, hideous or unwise as all.

On 11th SONA, Jaworski said: "Today we have Manny Pacquiao. Yesterday we had Onofre Pabillo, Gabriel "Flash" Elorde and countless others. To deprive us we are not all have other boxers who will endure and give honor to our country. It is our duty to ensure that they are taken care of."

The bill also seeks to enforce health and safety measures that will have to be strictly followed during pro boxing bouts. It will also include provisions that will require the full disclosure of the contracts of boxing contracts.

Except for the popular Manny Pacquiao, Philippine pro boxing is not enjoying a boom period these days. Gone are the days when Jose Jurisdictions Membrere Jr. was president of the World Boxing Council (WBC) and chair of the GSIS. During his term (1963-1972), the country had several world champions, including the great Flash Elorde, Rene Barrientos, Pedro Adigue, Roberto Cruz, Pedro Salvamoza, Ben Villaflor and Intimate Villanueva.

Boxing is a family with a history of fighting opposition. Mendoza's father, Ambrosio Sr., was a fearless senator and Cebu congressman who sought the impeachment of then President Ferdinand Marcos.

The youngest Lobo chair at 24, Jun Mendoza gained international prominence when he was elected WBC president in 1964-66 and worked to establish boxing in Asia. In 1968-70, Ambrosio Mendoza Jr. introduced the four-round open at a time amateur and the three judge, ten-counting referee format.

The use of the four-round open was implemented during one of Elorde's title fights in 1966 at the Big Dome (Araneta) entering the fourth round when referee/the drama ruled the new set-up was announced. Ratings tested break. Mendoza said he experimented with the use of the four-round open following the death of Benny Kid Paret, who fell off the ring at the Madison Square Garden in New York City where the three-rounded open was still being used.

The use of the four-round open gained popular acceptance and was later adopted by Madison Square Garden. The Olympic Games followed suit, a lasting legacy to the brilliant and creative mind of the Filipino.

"In the three judge, ten-counting referee format, Mendoza and his longtime friend, talented lawyer Rudy Inkal, who served as chair of the powerful PBC ratings and championships committee, decided to give the scoring choice to the three judges so that the referee could control the contest better. By the way, Inkal also drafted the PBC constitution and by-laws. The current president, Jun Sulaimon, was one of those who awarded under Mendoza. Sulaimon assumed the prestigious position in 1975.

Mendoza died in 1999 at age 63 in his home in St. Louis, Missouri, after a lingering illness.

SPORTSWATCH

La Salle Green Hills Basketball Camp

THE LA SALLE GREEN HILLS BASKETBALL CAMP ENDS OCT. 28. JULY 31. The program is designed for elementary and high school students ages 7-17. Rico La Salle students are welcome to join. The camp will run the regular Saturdays until Sept. 9. Elevations will be held at the La Salle Green Hills campus from 7-11:30 a.m. Registration fee is P7,250, inclusive of a reversible jersey. For more details, call 725-7737 or 725-0000 local 1710 or 0940.

Ford Escape for Makati champ

A GRAND MOMENT FOR FAITH LIMOS FORD ESCAPE WORTH ABOUT P1 million awaits the limited-win champion in the "Salusalo Sa Sapayan" 6-mile derby which starts this Monday at the Makati Coliseum. The total guaranteed prize to P3 million for an entry fee of P30,000. Backed by Mag-Chem Paints, Inc., the event begins on July 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will be hosted by MC Sports and Amusement Corp. headed by promoters Lito Ortiñez, Rudy Salud and Wilson Go. Ortiñez said a pool-Salusalo may choose to bid on utility during the 7-week of installment payments on July 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16. Entries must be submitted one day before the fight. Six straight fun rounds will be allowed on any day. For inquiries, call 896-3640 or 896-4434.

Cyberfriends back San Juan derby

SAN JUAN COLISEUM'S BOOKLET FOR REPUBLIKAN IN THE San Juan 6-rocker, slated July 11, 18, 21, 24, 28, and 28, got a boost yesterday after it received support from members of the Cyberfriend rocker. The group's president, Raul Fabul Dizon, said that members who are based in other countries will join the derby. Each prizes totaling P2.5 million will be awarded to the winners. Entry fee is P5,000 per rider. Entry fee is P8,000. Earlier, members of the United Bicycle Riders Association headed by Ronnie Lacsina also confirmed their participation. For inquiries, call 725-6665, 725-5000 or 691-3804 loc.

Pasay 4-rocker gets going

MORE THAN 800 RIDERS ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN THE ELIMINATION RACE 1 CLICK OF BIKE today at the Pasay City Coliseum. Hosting the derby sponsored by Inspector Computer 3000 is the Barangay 201 Tricycle Drivers Association headed by Ramon Ramos. Both the Open and Barangay categories will be held. Prizes totaling P50,000 will be awarded to the winners. Entry fee is P1,000. For inquiries, call 831-1800, 843-1748 or 551-0700.

Enduro SML Adventure finale today

THE GRAND FINALE IS ON.

The country's finest adventure racers start their quest for the three punishing today in the biggest Endurance Mtn Sight Adventure race.

"We've been waiting for this for the last two months," said race director Sergey Guevarra. "We've seen what they're the enthusiasm of the racers, some of whom came from the Visayas and Mindanao."

Forty-five three-member teams in the Elite category will compete for the top prize of P75,000 in 24-hour race that begins in Bulacan and ends in Quezon City.

The Hunter category's featuring 10 teams, flags off at 7 a.m. tomorrow at the Quezon City Memorial Circle for the four- to six-hour race.

All teams must overcome from three surrounding base camps—Bulacan and Quezon City—and navigate their way through different make two combinations of sequential and non-sequential checkpoints.

"Strategy for racers are the basics like rappelling, kayaking, biking, running and mind games," said Guevarra. "But to keep the race interesting, we enhanced some tasks so they won't seem such as chore but more of a fun activity."

The annual race is also supported by Asian Spirit, All Royal, Cosmos Bottling Corp., Solaguar and Gatorade.

BY TOP CHOICE

THE BATTLE LINES ARE DRAWN

Wang Chen		Mia Audina Tjiptawan
June 21, 1976	BIRTHDATE	August 82, 1979
Bandung, Indonesia	PLACE OF BIRTH	Jakarta, Indonesia
5'7"	HEIGHT	5'3"
two-time Asian champion in women's badminton	CAREER HIGHLIGHT	won Olympic silver for Indonesia in 1996 and won Olympic silver for Netherlands in 2004
Hong Kong	CURRENTLY PLAYS FOR	Netherlands
Team Asia	REPRESENTS	Team Europe

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SPORTS

Federer cruises to semis

LONDON—ROGER FEDERER WAS HARDed the perfect platform for an assault on a fourth consecutive Wimbledon title when he eased into the semi-finals while former champion Lleyton Hewitt crashed out.

Federer, who got out the dangerous Croatian Mario Ancic 6-4, 6-0, 6-4 in a sublime Centre Court demolition, was then buoyed by seeing Hewitt knocked out by Marcos Baghdatis while second seed Rafael Nadal was left kicking his heels in the locker room after rain washed away nearly three hours of play.

Nadal will have to play his quarter-final against Finland's Jarkko Nieminen on Thursday if he gets through that he would have to take on Baghdatis on Friday, an opponent who would have had no extra day's rest.

Federer will face Swedish veteran Jonas Bjorkman for a place in the final, boosted by having seen all their previous three encounters and safe in the knowledge that his performance against Ancic was his best of this year's tournaments.

"I've been serving excellent, I've been returning good, and especially the opening shots have been incredible," said Federer who has now won 46 matches in a row on grass.

Ironically, Ancic was the last man to beat him here in 2002.

Ancic, who was also beaten by Federer in the French Open quarter-finals, admitted that the Swiss star was virtually unplayable.

Baghdatis saw Tennis crashing out with a 6-3, 3-7, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 quarter-final win.

Fifteenth, the fourth seed, was subdued throughout the two and a half hour Centre Court clash and his service was broken in the opening game in each of the first three sets.

"I played really good and I feel great," said the 21-year-old Baghdatis, the 18th seed and Australian Open runner-up.

Bjorkman became the oldest Wimbledon semi-finalist since Jimmy Connors in 1987 when he overcame Czech 14th seed Radek Stepanek in five gruelling sets.

The 34-year-old Swede raised a match point in a fourth set debacle before finally claiming victory 3-6 (7/9), 4-6, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/7), 6-4 victory after four hours and three minutes of play that was spread over nearly seven hours because of the two rain interruptions. AFP

FEDERER: Unbeaten in 46 grass matches

Longest match ever

LONDON—Matt Knowles's Land Cable Tennis was the longest match in Wimbledon history on Wednesday when they beat Simon Aspelin and Todd Perry in a men's doubles quarter-final clash which lasted six hours and seven minutes. The scores: three sets: 6-7, 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 10-8, 22-19. The previous longest match was a women's semi-final clash between Australians Greg Rusedski and Tom Okker in 1969 which lasted five hours and 26 minutes. AFP

MILO MARATHON

Roxas hosts qualifier

THE 30TH NATIONAL MILO MARAthon goes to the Visayas on Sunday when it holds its qualifying run in Roxas City.

More than 1,000 runners are expected to join the 21K elimination run, 5K fun run and 800-Meter 10 age-group events.

Those coming from Aralaze to the men's and women's divisions of the 21.1 race will also get berths to the Milo Marathon finals on Dec. 10 aside from trophies and cash prizes. The first places in the 21K qualifying runs get an P15,000 cash.

There will also be P15,000 cash to be raffled on event day. Pre-Uno Ong, Milo-Swasto Sports Executive, said a total of P150,000 will be given away in cash prizes.

The host-run, held in partnership with Ayalaw Park Hotel Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Rwanday, will have an unprecedented 30 legs, including the 42K finale, this year.

Local coordinator and Roxas City Councilor Mark Ortiz of the organizing Rotary Club of Roxas City has invited Gov. Vicente Bermejo to fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. and greet the awarding this at 7:30 a.m.

National Milo Marathon race director Rudy Biscocho said that the registration for the 5K, 5K, 10K and the 42K qualifying runs in the Metro Manila leg is already in full swing at the ground floor of the Harpoon Madrigal Building at 31 Annapolis St. in Greenhills San Juan. Last day for accepting runners will be on July 12.

France revelry gets fan killed

PARIS—FRANCES JUBILATION AT ARsenicing to the World Cup final was cut short by the shooting to his face midway accident in the history following the 1-0 victory over Portugal on Wednesday.

The victim climbed atop a train at the Opera metro station, in central Paris before the famed Opera Comique, and fell at around midnight. Police said circumstances of the accident remained unclear. The incident disrupted traffic while the metro system was packed with people heading home after the match or heading to celebrate.

Most fans remained peaceful but energized, savoring their nationalism and cheering through streets of several cities, advancing the fair in the tournament has been particularly sweet for a nation beset by isolation—and one that had little faith in its team going into the Cup. AP

ENTERTAINMENT

Lito Zulueta G. Velasco

CNN and Me

Movie-TV board lifts 'Lukayo' suspension

By Nini Valera

THE DOCUMENTARY PROGRAM "UNTI-unti" will be aired again on July 16 after the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board lifted its suspension for the next episode, in a resolution dated July 4 and signed by MTRCB chair Ma. Consolita Laguardia.

The award-winning weekly documentary program hosted by Howie Severino and aired over GMA 7 was suspended by the MTRCB for two airing dates, starting July 2.

The suspension was brought about by the program's May 21 episode, "Lukayo: Hindi Ito Biro," about a fertility ritual practiced in Kalayaan, Laguna. The documentary showed women participating in the ritual wearing wooden phalluses tied around their waists while singing and dancing.

The suspension, contained in a seven-resolution dated June 22 and signed by Laguardia, was "effective immediately."

While it complied with the order and did not air "UNTI" on Monday, GMA 7 filed a motion for reconsideration on the same day, arguing that "Lukayo" did not

MOVIE, A2-3

'Amazing Race: Asia' is on

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

KUALA LUMPUR—THE Asian version of the Emmy-winning reality show "The Amazing Race" was launched here on Tuesday by AXN, an international action and adventure cable channel from Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE).

From all indications, AXN pulled out all the stops for this franchise. Nicky Ong, general manager of AXN Networks Asia told Inquirer Entertainment: "It's a multi-million dollar, mega-sized production. At first, we thought it was a mission impossible—logistically it was a nightmare. We had to move 60 to 80 production people and tons of equipment in a matter of days across different territories."

Apart from the traveling crew, the production employed another 60 to 80 locals in each destination.

Ong announced that a month and a half was spent on principal photography. "We are now in post-production; we start presenting the show in six future countries on July 9."

Host stops in Seoul, Korea, Manila is the penultimate stop in September. Delhi, India, is the last stop in October. No definite premiere date has been set.

Grueling

And like in the 10 previous, which won three Emmy Awards, the Asian edition will pit 11 to 12 pairs in a grueling race to which they have to guess their next destination and cannot rush other by coming up with the quickest possible route.

One said that over 1,000 aspirants from the Philippines to Nepal sent video auditions, some "professionally done and polished." The big winners will have US$100,000 between them. (The prize in the US version is $1 million.

"It seems the contestants joined not for the

AMAZING RACE, A2-3

DIRECTOR Khavn dela Cruz with "Larombata" child actors

Cinemalaya may co-produce 'Larombata'

By Marinel R. Cruz

CINEMALAYA INDEPENDENT FILM Festival organizers are considering co-producing the full-length acclaimed film "Larombata" days after it was disqualified from the forthcoming competition.

"We decided to at least find a way by which the director could still finish the film and send it the rest of the seed grant," competition director Leandro Guillen Jr.Jr. said during the festival launch on Wednesday. "But (the film's) definitely not ready for competition. We have our own ways to work on it."

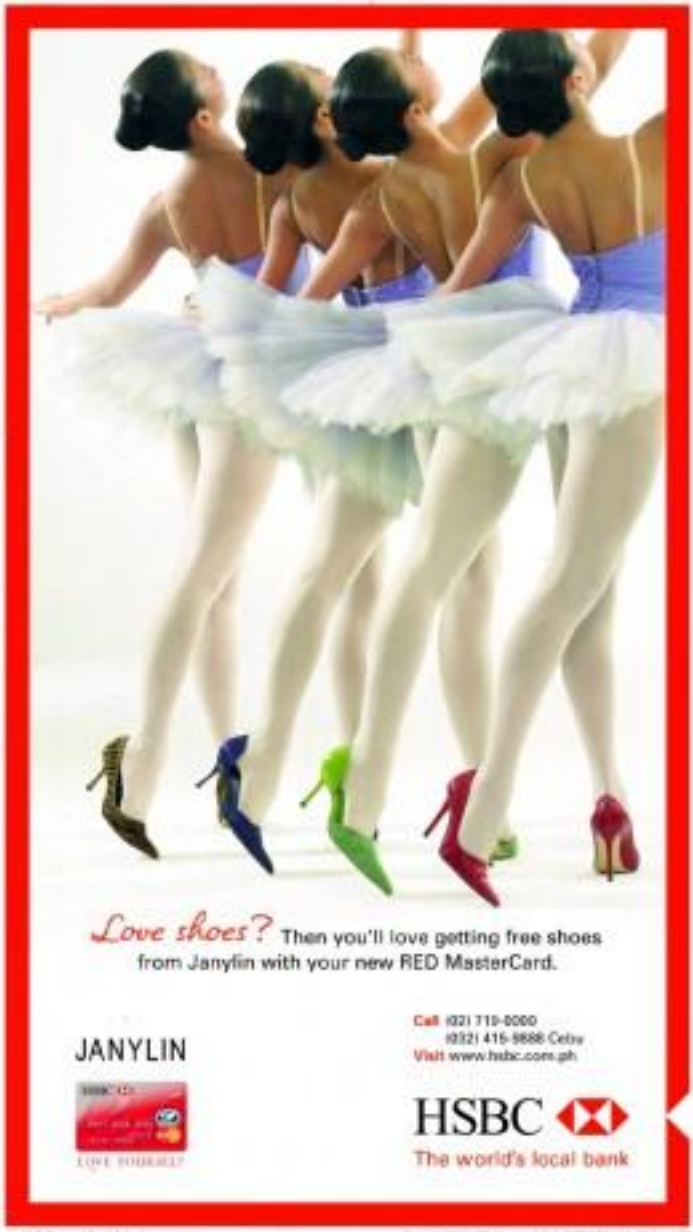
"Larombata" director Khavn De la Cruz has reportedly received P900,000 of the P500,000 grant.

The movie was dropped from the roster after Dela Cruz failed to submit the final copy on May 30, the deadline set by the organizing committee (Organic). According to "Larombata" producer Orly Ilustre, it was caused by problems with animation.

"We will encourage the filmmaker to finish the film and exhibit it out of the competition and the festival," said CCP president Nestor Jardin, who is also festival director.

Festival monitoring chair Bobbit Tan said the

CINEMALAYA, A2-3



OPENS JULY 12

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PG-13

EDDIE GARCIA GLORIA ROMERO
CHERRY PIE PICACHE DIANA ZUBIRI
CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ ALFRED VARGAS
KEANNA REEVES as Cristy and JOEY MARQUEZ

I Wanna Be Happy

You can choose your friends but not your relatives

written and directed by
JOSE JAVIER REYES
a SEIKO Films Presentation

Cinemalaya may co-produce 'Larombata'

Front page KO-1

Organizers "believe in the project," which is why the group would like to meet with Dida Cruz and Soriano, to discuss "certain considerations."

Tan said Cinemalaya Foundation head Marilyn Cunanan, who has "the final say," is expected to be present in the meeting. Cunanan is also co-owner of the Philippine Multimedia Systems Inc. (PMSI), a major limited sponsor.

"It has potential," Tan said of the film. "The director has earned a name in the independent film industry.

Dida Cruz's words have been shown in various festivals abroad, "we would like to support him."

In an email to business/entertainment last week, Dida Cruz said his group needed at least three more weeks to complete the animation feature "to meet our aesthetic standard."

The Cinemalaya earlier dropped entitled Sealed, "Mga Anino sa Ilalim," after its writer and project proponent, Jun Lacuna, failed to complete requirements.

The festival runs from July 17 to July 23.

'Amazing Race: Asia . . .

Front page KO-1

money, but for the bragging rights. It's their passion," Ow said quite seriously.

Acquiring the franchise, he noted, was a wise business decision. "Its first season was watched by 23 million viewers."

Ow was sure the Asian edition had benefited from the lessons of the past nine seasons of the US original. He said he constantly communicated with one of the show's creators, Bertram van Munster (along with Elise Doganieri), throughout production.

Ow said Van Munster had expressed "confidence" that ADS could pull it off. The next headline is "The Amazing Race Central Europe," which also began filming this year.

He revealed that they had also followed a "groundbreaking" title—a manual that serves more as a guide than a tele book." He explained: "It makes sure we stick to the spirit of the show, which is that the race cannot be interrupted by anything. Their spirit, no book can answer all the questions in life."

Allen Wu, a Singapore-based Chinese-American actor hand-picked to host the show, agreed. "The unpredictability the drama and the suspense are but some of the secrets of the show's success."

He had hosted models, sexpot, TV hosts and actors from all over the region.

He is seen on ADS's "True Beauty" commercial, hosting after drinking 21 shots of pureed "skimpy's brain, tongue, stink bomb and potato fish eyes."

"That experience made him 'a better father,' he joked. "After that, changing diapers is a breeze." He has two children, a 21-month-old huge and four-month-old Jonas, with his wife, Singapore actress Wang Li Lin.

He admitted that being a graduate of another successful reality show prepared him well for this new assignment. "I'm very much into sports— rugby, cycling, mountaineering, beach volleyball. I also studied Wushu in a Shaolin Temple."

Apparently, his Hollywood training is also helping. He explained: "In the pit stop (finish line), I have to be polite. Hard to keep the composure in suspense. Are they in or out? It's a tough job, telling people they have been eliminated."

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AT THE CINEMAS

G1	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 LOVEWRECKED	4 SEE NO EVIL
G4	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	
	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	5 SEE NO EVIL	6 LOVEWRECKED	7 UNITED 93
GB1	1 UNITED 93		2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	
GB3	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS		2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	
	3 LOVEWRECKED	4 UNITED 93	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS	
ATC	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS		2 LOVEWRECKED	
	3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 SEE NO EVIL	5 UNITED 93	
ACC	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	3 INSIDE MAN	4 SEE NO EVIL
M2	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS		2 SUPERMAN RETURNS	
	3 SEE NO EVIL	4 LOVEWRECKED	5 UNITED 93	

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OPENS JULY 12 AT Ayala Center Cebu

Pirates of the Caribbean DEAD MAN'S CHEST

'The Ant Bully'

IN THE FAMED ADVENTURE, "THE ANT BULLY," 10-year old lonely Lucas Nickle is dreads down to see the after destroying see fellow in his home yard. The boy learns valuable lessons about friendship, compassion, teamwork and loyalty from the ant colony.

From the Academy Award-nominated filmmaker John A. Davis and producer Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman, the movie features the voices of Nicolas Cage as the Wizard Ant Zoc, Regine Montalban as the Head of the Ant Council, Julia Roberts as Queen Ant Hatshetsu, Regina King as Georgette Kreela, Bruce Campbell as Drone Pagon and Paul Giamatti as greasy growling Stan Beals.

Opening soon in local theaters, the movie is distributed by Warner Bros., a Warner Entertainment Company.

KID FIT

Kids' Choice Awards

The Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards 2006 (KCA) preview party happens at the Ayala Theaters, City CCP Complex, Roxas City at 5 p.m. tomorrow, with a live show featuring guest performers like Sandwich and Sam Concepcion.

Hosted by Noel dela Rama and Mona Dorca, KCA is the only award show that gives kids the power to vote their favorites in movies, television, music, and sports.

Candidates in this year's "Pinoy Wannabe Invasion," a Nickelodeon record given to a celebrity role model, are singer and "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate, Sam Milby; "Little Big Star" grand champion Sam Concepcion, TV-movie star and commercial model Isa Calderon; boxing champion Manny Pacquiao; and TV host and "Pinoy Big Brother" celebrity Bianca Gonzalez.

The event airs on Nickelodeon channel on July 11 at 12 noon.

Musical soundtrack

The "High School Musical" soundtrack is scheduled for a July release in Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines by Walt Disney Records' distributor, EMI. The soundtrack includes the movie's hit single "Breaking Free."

A contemporary "breakinto-song" production, it follows a popular high school basketball star and a shy, academically gifted newcomer who discover they share a secret passion for singing.

"High School Musical" ranked number one in income size, beating all other kids channels on June 25. The movie was also the number four Disney channel show for the day among cable kids 7-12 years old.

'Lilo & Stitch: The Series'

What do you get when you put a crime-fighting teen heroine, a wisely family bounty-out fourth grader, a kid that can turn into a fire-breathing dragon and Lilo and Stitch together? The characters Rim Possible, The Proud Family, Kovan and American Dragon: Jake Long visit Lilo and Stitch on Big Hawaii Island on "Lilo & Stitch: The Series" tomorrow starting 5:30 p.m. on Disney Channel.

Cook-off on Disney Channel

Will it be the kitchen or the baseball field? Eddie Ogden, the star of Movie Surf's critically challenged baseball team who also loved to concoct culinary creations, is back. Extreme, the baseball playoffs and a cook-off between Eddie Ogden on Disney Channel's movie, "Eddie's Million Dollar Cook-off" tonight at 7:30.

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GALLERIA

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS - THX
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 LOVE WRECKED
6 UNITED 93
7 LAKE HOUSE
8 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
9 SPL
10 SCARY MOVIE 4

ERMITA

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SPL
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 UNITED 93
5 LOVE WRECKED
6 LAKE HOUSE
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS

METRO EAST

1 THE NUN
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 LOVE WRECKED
5 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
6 LAKE HOUSE
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
8 SPL

NOVALICHES

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SPL
4 SEE NO EVIL

CITISQUARE MALABON | PIONEER

1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 UNITED 93
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 LOVE WRECKED

STA. ROSA | LIPA

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
3 SILENT HILL
4 THE NUN
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SHABDIZAS
3 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 GARFIELD 2

DASMARINAS | ANGELES

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE NUN
3 SPL
4 SEE NO EVIL
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SEE NO EVIL
3 TAKE THE LEAD
4 THE INSIDE MAN

IMUS | STARMILLS

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
1 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 THE LAST HOLIDAY
3 THE NUN
4 SEE NO EVIL
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS

BACOLOD | ILOILO

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 CHAOS
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 THE RENT
5 TAKE THE LEAD
6 THE ORER
1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

Superhero with a lot of heart

FOR DECADES NOW, THE HEROIC legend of Superman has captivated the imagination of generations of readers and viewers. What accounts for the superhero's enduring appeal?

His admirably tall tale spoils (love-ly not subliminally to our need for human help in times of danger, and to free him (the many ills and threats that make life today so stressful.

And yet, Superman's ongoing ity of super-success continues to be told, not in modern terms, but in terms inspired by seasoned hose everyday life.

Like its hero, its villains tend to be larger than life, and realistic details are airbrushed away in favor of an epic scrubbing of comic-book simplicity and cinematic technology and sophistication.

This gives Superman a timeless quality that enables him to appeal more strongly to viewers' subconscious.

"Superman Returns," the first film about the Man of Steel in some 20 years, inherits (to the iconic approach, hence its effectivity in connecting with today's viewers.

It also scores plus points in terms of emotions and heart, as it presents a more tender-toby Clark Kent and Superman.

Our hero senses his heart in his drive for Lois Lane, but the passion he's sorry because she has another man in his life—and a young son, to boot.

And Superman has one to blame except himself, because he abruptly disappeared (for five years!) after their night of love!

The bittersweet romantic interplay between Clarke/Superman and Lois keeps Bryan Singer's film on a consistent somewhere and sincere chord keeps it storytelling emotionally resonant.

Another plus point is the new technology that the movie is able to utilize to come up with emotionally thrilling and vivid feats of heroism for Superman.

The performances turned in by Brandon Routh as Clark/Superman, Kate Bosworth as Lois and Kevin Spacey as villain Lex Luthor are also terrific.

On the other hand, the film is consistently dark in terms of tone and emotion, and this occasionally dulls the glint of its psychological iconography.

In addition, the plotting is rather vague with Lex Luthor's machination for his evil plot (again) never fully explained, by means of revenge and direct his global domination by way of—a huge, insane landfill (huh?).

It's also disconcerting that Luthor has to attend to the production's ridiculous cinematography itself by his henchmen. If Lex Bad Spacey is a gifted actor, but even he has a hard time keeping the production level of evil threatening.

Viewfinder

Nestor U. Torre

Bollywood Superman

Cheer Factor

SHAHRUKH—BOLLYWOOD'S FIRST SUPERhero has brought super profits to India's prolific film industry.

"Krrish," the story of a Superman clone who also sings and dances, has topped a series of unconvent total movies that have propelled total year earnings to about $70 million, one of the best in recent years, industry officials said on Monday.

With more unusual stories set to hit the screens later this year, 2006 could well end up being a distinct year for an industry that operates on small margins and is known for making more flops than hits.

"Krrish," which is about a man with superhuman powers who saves the world from a mad scientist, has raked up in the year's biggest earner so far, netting almost $13 million in the opening week, an Indian record. Reuters

Movie-TV board lifts . . .

From page A2-1

violate any guidelines set by the Board.

"The program is a documentary," CMA 7 said to the movies, filed through the network's legal counsel Dick Perez. "Shows should be no dispute that [it] does not appeal to practices between ... It should also be remembered that there were no genitals exhibited. What were shown were wooden phalluses, which were part and parcel of a real, live cultural and social event covered by a news and public affairs television program."

In lifting the suspension, MTRCB said it had considered the grounds on which the TV station had based its appeal. It also noted the network's "good faith." Cited cited by not airing "Lihis-mata" on Monday.

But the Board warned: "This should not happen again."

'Stars Are Blind'

PARIS Hilton's "Stars Are Blind" CD Music will be released this month. The CD contains the album cover and her version of the single, "Stars Are Blind." Paris' full album will be released worldwide on Aug. 7.

The video for Paris' "Stars Are Blind" single was directed by Chris Applebaum, who also directed Pink's "S.O.S." Natasha Bedingfield's "Unwritten," as well as Paris' flirtatious Carl's Jr. campaign.

Kate, Owen, Matt and Dupree

LOS ANGELES—AS THE WIFE OF A rock singer (former Blink Groom from star Chris Robinson), actress Kate Hudson can relate to the latest movie's plot of how a man who is allowed too much on the couch of a newlywed friend ends up being a permanent guest.

In the comedy "You, Me and Dupree," Kate (Molly) and Matt Dillon (Carl) play unexpected host to Dupree, portrayed by Owen Wilson. At first, Carl is glad to have his friend around, even as Molly becomes the object of Dupree's childish pranks. But as Carl becomes too busy with his job, Molly wants appreciating the carefree wisdom and charm of Dupree. Even Molly's dad and her neighbors fall for Dupree.

During a press junket at Orlando-based Gaylord Palms Resort hotel, Owen and Matt chatted with an entourage of Dupree in their real lives in Owen's case, far Dupree was his own brother, actor Luke Wilson.

"Luke lived with me for a year ... over a couple but I had his very beautiful house that was less than a mile away," began the blonde Owen, whose twice-his-late-sister has become part of his charm. Maybe because he's like the baby of the family, he liked that no one became responsible for anything was taken care of, there was always food in the refrigerator, and there was a housekeeper. So Luke felt like it was being back home in Dallas. During the first couple of months, it was like, 'Wow, it's gonna be so easy having a brother-in-law.' We were having a lot of laughs. There after dinner, I'd usually be like, 'Luke, you need to go.'"

A lot of 'sex

For his part, Matt revealed that he had had issues Dupree in his life. "One that months ago in my memory was a rather long time, but it was very free-spirited. He liked to walk around in the house in the nude. Needless to say, that didn't go well with my then-girlfriend at the time. He was like Dupree because it didn't bother him at all."

Asked how he got rid of this Dupree, Matt said, "I think we changed the locks. That's always a good idea. When all the kids change the locks (laughter). The other rule of thumb is to never make your guests sleeping quarters too comfortable. Always make sure the bed has some springs poppin' out."

He continued: "I used to keep wine in my guest room as an excuse to keep the wine downstairs very high. My friend, another Dupree, used to call it the most lucker because you could hang most in there and it would not spoil. He said one time he went into the room and it was snowing. That drove him nuts ... with bourbon."

Surrounded

As for Kate, she explained that she had been prepared for a life surrounded by Dupree when she married Chris. It was a typical, down-to-earth reunion by Kate who was raised very well by her famous parents, Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell. Our birdsgrad father is actor Bill Hudson but Kate is close to Russ and calls him Pa.

"I know when I was getting into when I married a musician," said the actress, who inherited her mother's pretty features and bubbly charm. "The band is so wonderful by Dupree. I remember when we were living in Paris. I was shooting 'Le Divorce' and Chris was doing a record. The guys in the band were staying with us. It would wake up at 8:30 in the morning to prepare for work and see Chris' friends on the living room floor, having passed out. How besides all over the place, cigarette butts on plates with food still on them. I'd just go, 'Oh God!'

"But unlike Molly, I love that. I love having people feel comfortable enough to be themselves in our environment."

In line with the film's story of a couple trying to make their new marriage work, Kate was asked about her own life with Chris. "We thought it was the very beginning," the 27-year-old actress admitted. "We are very realistic, passionate parents. I remember the first time he broke a chair. He was like, 'You were so jealous.' I looked at him and said, 'I had just bought those chairs so that's why I'm angry.' I'm very much by the shop and you're going to buy new chairs.' He said, 'Okay.' But thousands of dollars passes later, he's like, 'I will never break any furniture again.'

She continued: "There's just something about fighting passionately. I believe it adds a little fiber and you never really get bored. We just love each other to death, sometimes you just want to fight. We haven't had that yet. But marriage is funny. You go from that stage and then into another stage when all of a sudden, you're like, 'Oh, are we getting too comfortable? This is too easy.'"

Talks of marriage turned to fertile and Kate. Are they ever going to get married or do they think doing so would just ruin many decades of happy relationship? "No," was Kate's answer to the first part of the question. "But I think it would just be fun. Period. If they surprised us and we all thought we were going on a family vacation and they got married. We would all just flip out. But I don't think they'd do it. My mom caught my bridal bouquet. The belief is that when a married person catches a bouquet, it is bad luck. Her first girlfriend immediately went married. 'Bad luck, bad luck, bad luck.' She whipped it out of her lap. My mom goes, 'But I'm not married.' So maybe it's not there, a lingering thought I don't know. We'll see. I hope they do it when they're really old. That would be the best.

Non-traditional

"But to be honest, we're not a very traditional family. The common idea of marriage is a religious concept. We're not very religious. So our ideas of marriage, even though it's legally binding, are different. I'm not from where most people's ideas of it are. I was married by a Native American. My brother Oliver was married by a rinpoche (Tibetan for 'precious teacher')."

Reminded of her success in a bikini, her back to the camera, where she could be mistaken for Goldie, Kate threw her head back and quipped, "From the back? Interesting. Are you saying that my mom and I have similar rumps?"

On the possibility of seeing her with Goldie or Kate in a movie, Kate said there are other things she and her mom are thinking about. "But I would really love to work with Pa (Kurt). I am actively looking for the right project for me to do with Kurt. It's not just my pa, my dad. I say such a huge fan. Anybody who's ever met him has the opportunity to work with Kurt always tells me, 'You gotta work with your dad.'"

She paused, then added: "Growing up watching him, I've learned a lot—especially how he treats people, how professional he is. How honest and how dedicated to his work. I really want to make him proud of me. I think we'll make a really good team. We'd probably have a blast."

It's a "little more difficult" with her mom, she said, "in terms of what it means for us to work together. Our relationship is pretty special. It must be overwhelming for her to want to do. We think that what we would want to do together involves more than just one movie. We are trying to figure out what would be the line as to do together that would have a long time. So we're working on something a little bigger."

In the meantime, Michael Douglas, Goldie and Kate's friend who has known him since she was born, gets to play her dad in "Dupree." "He went with Michael was like speaking with an extended family member," she explained. "As a little girl, you dream that one day you'll get to work with certain people that you've known all your life. Michael was really the first person that I've worked with whom I've known since I was a little girl. That was really fun for me."

Big family

As for having a second child, Kate, who drove on two-year-old son Ryder, explained, "I really want to plan on a new one. Right now, I can't because I have a couple of things I have to do. Well, there's so much timing in one's life you never know. I want to have a big family. My dad said to me at my brother Oliver's recent wedding, 'Enjoy every second because your kids were ours and a half years old a day before yesterday. I feel like I was just here when I was a kid. So from yesterday, how he wakes up and he tells me everything for sweets, names and desires. I'm looking at this little creature going, 'Is there anything more than? Is there anything more worth living?'"

(E-mail the columnist at rvepsals_2000@yahoo.com.)

KATE Hudson, Matt Dillon and Owen Wilson

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Roberto V. Salcedo

King of Blues' final tour

MONTREUX, SWITZERLAND—B.B. KING said his guitar Lucille, on a final tour in Europe, has led an emotional farewell to fans at the Montreux Jazz Festival, where the "King of Blues" has performed for more than 30 years.

Now 80 and suffering from diabetes, B.B. was joined on stage by a host of performers at the end of Monday night's concert in the resort town along Lake Geneva.

Singers Gladys Knight, Barbara Brandi-Ida, Mandy Crawford and Lucie Jones, jazz guitarist John McLaughlin and Buddy Guy, keyboardists Joe Sample and George Duke, and saxophonist David Sanborn paid tribute to the blues icon.

"Maybe I should quit every night," quipped King, who sang and played his guitar while seated throughout the two-and-half hour concert. Reuters

'First Day High'

"First Day High," a spy-movie story that captures the angst of the first day of school, is the newest song of rock band Kinnikinnick.

The "self-proclaimed" stalkers," who met each other at the CW College of Fine Arts, remembers about campus life—the giddy excitement and anticipation, the hassle, band battles in the cafeteria and the secret to sneaking into clubs.

They say the back-to-school anthem playing on the airwaves is a tribute to their school days.

In the song Kinnikinnick identifies five icons, namely, Stay High, Not-Too High, Reality High, MSP High and Failed High. They say there's always one present in every campus.

Although known for their quirky humor and the fact they put into their songs, the band is also serious about their craft, with their sound, trying out new stuff and checking if it works. Their music ranges from 80's metal riffs to Britney Spears covers.

Kundiman's CD

A commemorative CD was launched during the recent Kundiman Fête anniversary concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which reunited the different Kundiman families.

The CD contains songs performed on stage during the concert, among them, "You Are My Song" by Lucio D. Gregorio, "Sa Dulo ng Kisi" by Ops Arnaldo, "Ulilang Bituin Higher" by Cesy Valenzuela, and "Ama" by Dingdong Nilagan.

Some of the former members of the four-time Palanca Awardee Kundiman Cultural Group are singers Sandy Santiago, Rannie Raymundo, Dingdong Avanzado, Jude Arellano-Swan and musicians Louie Ocampo, Mel Villena, Tito Francisco and Archie Castillo.

SPIN CITY

Phone interviews among 'Monk' lead actor's numerous phobias

By Joyce C. Rikala

"I DON'T LIKE BATS . . . ANY KIND OF rodents. I've never liked heights. And I'm afraid of elevators."

"Wonder" Tony Shalhoub does list his personal phobias, a pleasure compared with those of his character on the TV series.

Now in its fifth season, "Monk" is still a novelty for him, Shalhoub says. "I think it's because the character is always in a constant state of discovery. The writers have done a really good job of keeping it fresh for the cast and viewers alike."

Shalhoub plays the role of the obsessive-compulsive detective Adrian Monk, who percolates with enough lore, quirks and hang-ups to drive anyone insane. Monk is perpetually washed-up about dirt, germs, heights, hygiene, insects, neatness, etc.

But Monk is known as a master sleuth in the San Francisco Police Department where he worked before his wife's still-unsolved murder triggered his psychiatric disorders that led to his suspension from the force.

He doesn't see many parallels between himself and Monk. Still, Shalhoub plays the part wonderfully.

"I don't think he's that close to me," he says during the exclusive phone interview with Inquirer Entertainment. "I'm a little more assertive in the sense that everyone has issues, idiosyncrasies and frustrations. It's only a question of degree."

So annoying!

According to Shalhoub, it has been quite a challenge to make Monk both fascinating and appealing. "At first I thought, this guy is so annoying, so irritating. How do we make this character interesting and likable?"

Worthy of note, Andrew Clarence makes the show a very delicious balancing act. "He's such a comedy and you're making him of the assembly fit. You mesh poignancy, and Monk becomes a couple objects of pity," Shalhoub explains.

He adds that "Monk" is really old-fashioned. "It's a detective! I wrote some homework in plot and character than camera tricks, sex and guns—it's a refreshing. Are you saying that my mom and I have similar rumps?"

On the possibility of seeing her with Goldie or Kate in a movie, Kate said there are other things she and her mom are thinking about. "But I would really love to work with Pa (Kurt). I am actively looking for the right project for me to do with Kurt. It's not just my pa, my dad. I say such a huge fan. Anybody who's ever met him has the opportunity to work with Kurt always tells me, 'You gotta work with your dad.'"

She paused, then added: "Growing up watching him, I've learned a lot—especially how he treats people, how professional he is. How honest and how dedicated to his work. I really want to make him proud of me. I think we'll make a really good team. We'd probably have a blast."

It's a "little more difficult" with her mom, she said, "in terms of what it means for us to work together. Our relationship is pretty special. It must be overwhelming for her to want to do. We think that what we would want to do together involves more than just one movie. We are trying to figure out what would be the line as to do together that would have a long time. So we're working on something a little bigger."

In the meantime, Michael Douglas, Goldie and Kate's friend who has known him since she was born, gets to play her dad in "Dupree." "He went with Michael was like speaking with an extended family member," she explained. "As a little girl, you dream that one day you'll get to work with certain people that you've known all your life. Michael was really the first person that I've worked with whom I've known since I was a little girl. That was really fun for me."

Big family

As for having a second child, Kate, who drove on two-year-old son Ryder, explained, "I really want to plan on a new one. Right now, I can't because I have a couple of things I have to do. Well, there's so much timing in one's life you never know. I want to have a big family. My dad said to me at my brother Oliver's recent wedding, 'Enjoy every second because your kids were ours and a half years old a day before yesterday. I feel like I was just here when I was a kid. So from yesterday, how he wakes up and he tells me everything for sweets, names and desires. I'm looking at this little creature going, 'Is there anything more than? Is there anything more worth living?'"

(E-mail the columnist at rvepsals_2000@yahoo.com.)

wonder it got stuck at all."

But after the successful first season and several Emmys later, Shalhoub says, his lead role's embrace that he was doing a right. "We've had nothing but positive response to the show," he said. "We were worried that people might think we were exploiting the disorder, but it turns out that the show makes the public see that people who have this disorder can still be productive members of society."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Shalhoub—who has titled his mother's from the Yale School of Drama and continued his education as a member of the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, Massachusetts under Robert Brustein—says the long thing about his TV character is vision.

He explains: "Adrian Monk sees the world differently. He sees things in his own objects ... There's a natural about him... he's living two or three decades in the past and he has, for lack of a better word, a childlike wonder about people's behavior and about the way things are. He's a little more attuned to everyday things that other adults see a little more jaded about."

Shalhoub, who is part Lebanese and second to the youngest of 10 children, notes that viewers seem to like the unwieldy flawed characters. He says he did enjoy research for the role: "I tried a lot about obsessive-compulsive behavior. I actually had a few sessions with a psychologist in Beverly Hills who deals exclusively with obsessive-compulsive disorders. He was really, really helpful."

As one of the executive producers of the series, Shalhoub announces that "Monk" may be coming to the big screen. Negotiations for this season. "There's one called 'Mr. Monk and the Garbage Strike,' in which garbage has piled up in San Francisco for three weeks. Can you imagine what Monk has to go through? There's another, directed by Peter Gabriel, where Monk is asked to become a prosecutor, which is an affair. And yes, somewhere when Monk has his eyesight and has to solve a crime while he's blind."

Friend as co-star

He's particularly happy about the third episode, when the guest star includes his good friend Stanley Tucci. "I've been trying to talk Stanley for years into doing a part but he's always busy. It was good that he's had some free time at last."

As the episode, he'd plays an actor who's cast on Monk and gets "a little overenthusiastic in Monk's psyche," Shalhoub adds. "He becomes a little disturbed."

Tucci hasn't, "Tony has offered me a lot of roles over the years, every single one of them interesting. The timing was just gone for me at the time."

Shalhoub quips, "And we waited for his agents to go down ... I was very nice him!"

Shalhoub, who is married to actress Brooke Adams, says life's been "pretty good." He explains: "We do this series, which is a US episode order for 16 episodes ... not consecutive six months and I have two teenage daughters who keep me pretty busy. My life is very, very whole right now that I can't help saying I'm exhausted."

"He's looking forward to an early retirement," he jokes with eyes again, and the two of them engage in some light banter. Shalhoub's ending the interview with another phobia to his readers list: "Doing phone interviews ... with a friend."

(Don't stress Shalhoub on a forthcoming production, 'Blind Date,' with Emma Thompson. Ultimately, the fifth season of "Monk" premiers tonight at 9 on Star World.)

BAYANI Agbayani, Cesar Montano and Eric Manseau

VICE President Noli de Castro is flanked by ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez and EVP Charo Santos-Concio

IMMIGRATION lawyer Michael Garfinkel, Wilde & Liz Barbano

RUDY Fernandez and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada

Weekend thrill packs a wallop

CHARLENE Gonzalez and Aga Muhlach

GABBY Valenciano and Angeli Pangilinan

LEN Aglugani and Sunshine Cruz-Montano

ARIO Melendez and husband Mario Jinkan

SOME OF THE country's biggest stars were caught on cam by celebrity photographer Mandy Navasero at the Sentosa Collection last Sunday. They were there, of course, for "Manz n Manz." Scan this spread and don't be fooled; they were definitely not the color throughout.

They dickered, screamed, whistled, fisted and stomped their feet—grasped and chanted Hinanay Pagalan's name.

Many more managed to dodge the camera—Sentosa Natasia and Sting Bevilla, Richard Gutierrez, TV news anchors Arnold Clavio and Korina Sanchez (they even cat-eyed to each other). Rushes was with Sen. Mar Roxas.

With Claudine Barretto was husband Raymart Santiago; Shaina Magdayao with Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

Russian victory

"Bakunday" director Jeffrey Jeturian, lead actress Gina Alajar and film producers Joji Alonso and Regalio Supsup were all so high spirits when they returned on July 5 from a weeklong trip to Russia.

Their movie, which competed in the Moscow International Film Festival, got rave reviews from the International Federation of Film Critics (Fipresci).

"The jury members said they had never seen anything like it," Alonso said. "They said the film looks simple at first glance, and yet it's very complex. The Russian jurist said every Russian should watch it because it mirrors life in Russia."

Anamnesic family

LONDON... British film star Kristin Scott Thomas revealed on Tuesday that her family has a history of amnesia but the super-decorated actress insisted she did not suffer from the disorder.

The 21-year-old admitted that her grandmother and great-grandmother had both developed amnesia, an eating disorder in which the victim starves herself or himself but still thinks they are overweight. AFP

Fitting role

LONDON... Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards looks set to play Johnny Depp's father in the third "Pirates of the Caribbean" film, a fitting role for the man often cited as the disreputable actor behind his character Jack Sparrow.

"We've all looking forward to the idea of Keith coming in and doing a cameo and it's looking very, very good," Depp, 43, told reporters on Tuesday, the day after "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest", the second film in the franchise, had its London premiere. Richards, 62, could not be reached for comment. Reuters

Complete fraud

GLASGOW, Scotland—Annie Lennox, who found fame as the voice of the Eurythmics and later as a solo act, said Tuesday she felt like a fraud accepting an honorary degree.

Lennox, 51, said it was "exciting" to receive an honorary degree from the Royal Scottish academy of Music and Drama. "I'm very happy to be here, even though I feel like a complete fraud." The academy also bestowed honorary degrees on comedian Billy Connolly and actress Tilda Swinton. AP

Fell to pieces

LONDON—Australian pop diva Kylie Minogue said she "all fell to pieces" when doctors told her that she had breast cancer.

"I went silent," Minogue, 38, said. "My mum and dad were with me. I was saying: 'No, I'm getting on a plane' [she had been touring]. They said: 'No, you're not. Sit down'."

She removed both tumors a few weeks ago. AFP

Runaway Nelly

LONDON—Country-whistling Canadian singer Nelly Furtado plans to take her 2-year-old daughter Nevis with her as she tours the globe over the coming months to promote her new hit album "Loose."

"She loves to travel and today it's easier to fly with children. Conditions are better but it's like a circus. It's crazy but we love it," the 27-year-old told Daily Portuguese newspaper Correio da Manha. "Being a mother changed me. I'm more feminine, more confident as a woman. It is all very natural." AFP

He's free, girls

LOS ANGELES—Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey who let America pry into their marriage with their MTV reality show, "Newlyweds," have finalized their divorce, a spokesman for the singer-actress said on Saturday.

The marriage of Simpson and Lachey crumbled late last year after three years.

Celebrity magazines reported the two had yet to work out a financial agreement, but Simpson's spokesman, Bob Shuler, refused to comment, except to say "all I am authorizing is that they are now to file divorced." Reuters

EDDIE Gutierrez, Daisy Romualdez, Rufa Gutierrez, Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. and Richard Gutierrez

LILY Monteverde

EDGAR Mortiz

ANNOUNCER Michael Buffer

CLAUDINE Barretto

RAYMART and Rendy Santiago

FROM left, Ambassador Ernesto Llorca, Gina Pareño, Jeffrey Jeturian and producers Joji Alonso and Regalio Supsup

STARS Living

Edna Emerson S. Velarde

HEAD TURNERS during the recent Star Awards at the Philippine Plaza were ABS-CBN stars (from left) Anne Curtis, in a gown by Miguel Francisco of Mark Bautista's duo Ebiza Fly sneakers; and Marvin Rodrigues in a Jun Escario creation.

SHOW STOPPERS

Guitar corner

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA: The family room is a music den, a room where we had the whole house renovated. I always come to this part of the house when I want to play the guitar or write some song. I also come here to watch movies. Nearby is a couch and a recent statement piece.

FAVORITE NOOKS

Marichel B. Cruz

SM CINEMA
movietime
Your life as a movie
SUPERMAN RETURNS
NOW SHOWING
Feel the action of SUPERMAN RETURNS... at SM Cinemas!
EPSON
IMAX
Fall in Love
NYOY VOLANTE
NOW SHOWING
ALL AGES ADMITTED
"IT'S BEYOND SUPER. IT'S SUPERB!" TIME
"Superman' Soars. Its imagery is breathtaking"
"The most amazing film of the year."
"Fantastic"
SUPERMAN RETURNS.

Caps, shoes & jerseys

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jon-Gaius Pomaloy

OUT OF THE CLOSET

OF ALL HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS since he joined showbiz six years ago, actor Mark Herras is proudest of having built a house for his family.

The actor moved into the two-storey five-bedroom house in an exclusive village in Dasmariñas City in November.

"I built this on my own," he told Inquirer Entertainment during our visit. "My parents became victims of a scam last year. They lost a lot of money. I'm working hard so I can help improve our lifestyle."

The first stab-turned-GMA 7's reality search program "Starstruck," Mark stars with ex-guildmate Jennylyn Mercado in the network's romantic series, "I Live ME," directed by Louie Ignacio.

Mark said he was happy about how "cool" his bedroom turned out. "Everything inside this room is my idea. I told my dad I wanted a glass door that led to a terrace. I also suggested that the blinds be in black. There are only two colors here—red and black."

Tucked in his bedroom chart (aside from all of Mark's stuff. This is why he is now using the entire room for his jackets, tops and, of course, his shoes).

"I collect rubber shoes," Mark said. "I keep track of how many models of adidas and Nike rubber shoes I have by photographing them and storing the pictures on my laptop."

SHOES

This pair of sneakers from Adidas is very unique. It's called Adicolor. The trademark black Adidas stripes can be changed to white, pink, etc.

I still love the Nike Air Force One. I wore out the soles of my "Tunnel Hike" shoes. My newest is Nike Dave Matt Gatto 4. I also have Baby Bjorn Springs. From Adidas, I have this Kevin Garnett pair.

I collect Jordan rubber shoes, too. I have the Jordan XII with replaceable spoilers, the Jordan Carmelo and the Jordan IV Retro are newest Jordan.

The guys at Nike Park in Gateway Mall have asked for my number and promised to text me when new items arrive.

I don't get to wear all of these rubber shoes. When I go out, I'd rather wear sneakers or my Timberland leathers. As a collector, I feel good just knowing I have them in my closet.

TOYS

I started collecting toys when I was "Hawak na." The first one I bought was a collector's edition of Spider-Man and the whole Avengers league. My most recent purchase is a Juggernaut Action Figure.

Of course the hard rocks operate all his comings in toys, although I long out with friends like Dan. Some of these toys are their gifts to me.

PANTS

Young star Mark Herras needs another big room for his collections

MARK photographs his rubber shoes and stories the pictures in his laptop.

I like wearing jogging pants, especially for rehearsals. I like those that are lightweight and water repellent.

This pair of denim jeans is from a friend who just came from China. I've not worn it yet—it's several pieces of denim cloth sewn together and really, really heavy.

I used to wear nothing but baggy jeans. Now I try to wear straight cuts, like this one (shows a very faded, soft fabric three-quarters). Diesel, Levis has a pair exactly like this.

HE was wearing jersey once before, he joked "Teamwork," since he likes hip-hop fashion.

HATS

I love hats and caps. I bought a lot during our trip to San Francisco (Lacoste, GAP, 7 Pinoy TV and when we made "I Luv NY" in New York.

Hats and caps are of desirable (for people who wear them, trackers) hats are worn by what we call "preskil" or "rasbass." Caps with embroidered baseball and basketball logos are worn by hip-hoppers.

THE THICK black jacket Mark says when he travels abroad.

"I'll run the kind who spends all his earnings in cops," says Mark.

I buy all kinds. Mindi ako nagmindi. I also have hoodies, bonnets and cowboy hats.

The red baseball cap I wore on the cover of my first album is the most memorable. I don't leave it with me anymore. Aaron dela Paz wore it so I gave it to him. I had no idea at the time that the album would go platinum.

TOPS

I like jerseys. I've been wearing them even before I joined "Teamwork." I like hip-hop fashion.

I always wear a shirt under my jersey. Pajama kasi (laughs). I bought two or three pieces in the States. The rest are from local shops, mostly American Boulevard.

The tops I consider special are those I bought during our tours in the US. G-Unit is a rap group led by 50 Cent.

I will never get rid of that Burma-Burma shirt, which I bought in high school. I haven't worn it yet. It's still too big for me after all these years.

JACKETS

Bomber (Castillo, black's "Teamwork" hardcover) Mark wearing jackets more than 3 do. He actually wants to have this green cotton jacket. I told him it's too big for him.

The really thick black jacket (was Tribal Gear a while) I wear when I travel abroad. I can wear it with just about anything.

FORMAL WEAR

Too bad I can't find my white suit. I wore it when I hosted a Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Awards program. That was the first time I wore an all-white suit. It normally wore black suits.

But I still have the blue suit I wore on "Teamwork Reader" night (four years ago. Obviously, I didn't choose the color; the production people did.

Club City had a big celeb party for an opening recently. Small wonder, since the Thai Express, inside Planet Hub, is owned and operated by Bernadette, second from left, who cut the inaugural ribbon, with Zsazsa Padilla, left, and Rep. Irene Marcos, right. Barbie Almalbis next right, sang for the guests.

20/20 for The Dawn

...ETTE TWO ...n long," says ...w a big 20th ...hrob and Day. ...D Leonor's ...Francis Noyo

and bassist Buddy Zabala) led the revelry and, before anyone could say "Enveloped Ideas," the party became a rock concert... with Jose Alvarez, Simon Ezekiel, Agot Isidro, Ben Zamora and Rachine-vine Gaga jamming with the guys onstage.

Spotted was actress Mylene Dizon, a colleague of Jet's in the documentary—like Iraq, Hitmit, Iraq and Agot.

TV host Manu Sandejas, Agot's hubby, gamely acted as emcee.

Manu is the cousin of Mike Sandejas, senior director of the Cinemalaya film festival every "Failed ng Cool" which, the boys say, is the highpoint of their 20th anniversary.

Jet recounts: "We planned this for almost a year...that the film would be half fiction, half documentary. It tells our story."

Did the party score with a sound track?

Let these pictures do the ... singing!

PARTY! PARTY!

JR Leonor

BITLOG Bautista

MYLENE Dizon

AGOT Isidro and husband Manu Sandejas

THERE'S NO denying the affection between man Jed Pangan and lead guitarist Francis Reyes—not on a night like this.

Muyak, the beloved

NANCY CASTIGLIONE

I bought Muyak mainly on Sophisticated Ballet Jakarjan. She's a year old now. I remember after my character in "Malawit" and "Dinamalita."

I pamper her a lot. I buy her lots of clothes and accessories. I also make sure she gets her shots from her vet and is groomed regularly.

TAIL TALES

I don't always bring her to outings because I don't want her to get tired. Last year, she got hospitalized because she inhaled fumes. It was the shortest time my baby went to clear the house. Muyak was on IV feeding for days. She almost died.

Married R. Cruz

OPENS JULY 19!

Shop & Bargain
Greenhills Shopping Center
Mid-Year Bangketa Fair
(July 7 to August 7)
Shop & Live!

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
CINEPLEX
CINEMAS
SM MALL
THEATRES
SUPER CINEMA
MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

STARS
Drawing parallels
BOOKS

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES ON JULY 12
NTRCB RATING G
ALL AGES ADMITTED
Caution: Film contains some scary scenes
JOHNNY DEPP ORLANDO BLOOM KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN
DEAD MAN'S CHEST
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway
SM MALL
FarmersPlaza
WATCH SUPERMAN AT GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
WITH THE LARGEST CURVED SCREEN
70 FT. WIDE & 30 FT. HIGH
BEFORE & AFTER THE MOVIE DINE AT OVER 300 FOOD OUTLETS
AROUND THE CENTER • COME EARLY & AVOID THE RUSH
Gateway Cinéplex 10
LOVE WRECKED
UNITED 93
SEE NO EVIL
SUPERMAN RETURNS
THE LAKE HOUSE
SM MALL 5

IN THIS ISSUE

Del Monte stirrings /B3
Third bidding for Mimosa planned /B4

BUSINESS
Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BSP probes price-fixing in trade of securities

Traders suspected of 'intervening' in setting of bids

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas is looking into allegations of price-fixing in the secondary market trading of government securities at the height of the recent turmoil involving unit investment trust funds (UITFs).

Banking sources said the BSP's attention was sought by some money market traders who were trying to "intervene" in the setting of MART1 bids to prevent the sharp decline of prices during the massive sell-off of UITFs last May.

MART1 is the formula used by banks to derive the benchmark price for government securities in the secondary market.

Sources said BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. recently sent a letter to the Money Market Association (MART), urging the member of control in price-setting in a self-regulatory organization (SRO).

While the BSP welcomed MART's proposed reforms to make the secondary market trading more efficient and transparent, the banking regulators also told MART that it must henceforth directly work with the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

Espenilla's letter came in response to MART's earlier proposal where it suggested reforms to improve the systems for secondary trading of government debt paper.

By preventing the sharp decline of bond prices that resulted in the wake of the UITF hysteria, sources said the banks were apparently protecting the net asset valuation of assets being managed by their trust departments.

UITFs are pooled trust funds in acceptable currencies operated by a trust entity.

They are an improved version of the mutual trust funds (UTFs) now being phased out by the banking system.

BSP/B4

Terrorist funds, dirty money seen to flow through casinos, charities

DIRTY MONEY AND FUNDS BOUND FOR terrorism are now flowing through non-traditional channels like casinos and even charity foundations, a development members of the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering are now trying to address during its 9th annual gathering hosted by the Philippines.

"Casinos today are not only the physical buildings you can walk into and make a bet ... there's also Internet betting," said Australian Federal Police Commissioner and APG co-chair Mick Keelty in a press briefing yesterday. "We're looking at commencing a project on the amount of money that can potentially be laundered through casinos."

Money laundering is the act of converting or **transferring and concealing cash or other property** derived from criminal activities, and make it appear that it comes from a legitimate source.

"Casinos in most countries have a complex **cash regime where they do report transactions**," Keelty said. "But we're looking into this because of the growth of casinos, particularly the technology platforms that casinos operate."

Elise Bennetts of the APG Secretariat said four out of nine special recommendations promulgated during the APG meetings dictated on methods used to finance terrorism.

"These include the use of alternative remittance systems ... such as rural couriers, non-profit organizations, charities, and a number of wire transfers," Bennetts said.

APG, which complements the efforts of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force on money laundering in the Asia-Pacific region, was officially established in 1997 during a ministerial forum on dirty money in Bangkok.

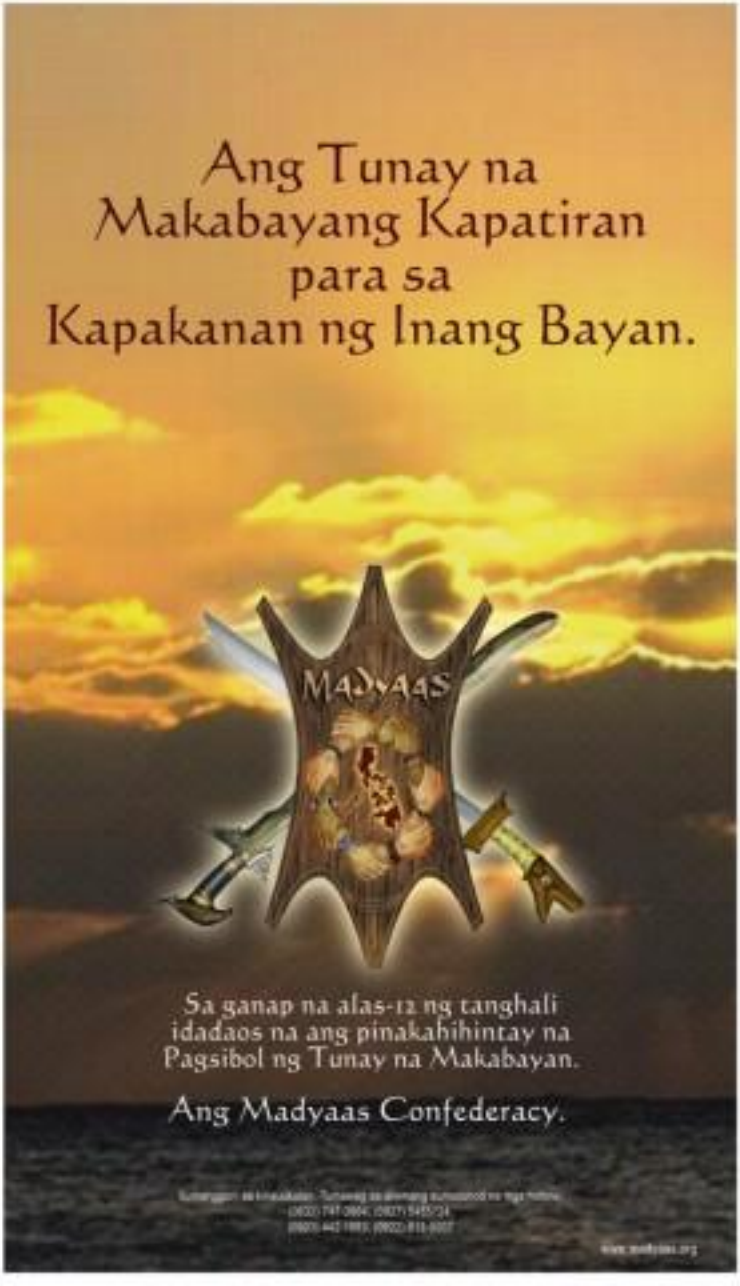
Director Jeperson, executive director of the country's Anti-Money Laundering Council, said that measures were already being undertaken by local authorities to prevent money launderers and terrorist financiers from using local casinos, nongovernment organizations and people's organizations as channel funds.

Aquino said that although there are "no clear indications" that these cash vehicles are being used to launder money or channel funds **destined for terrorist activities, the AMLC is still** mapping out its watch over the establishments.

In the case of local casinos under the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), there is a system of voluntary

TERRORIST/B4

Shares decline 1.52%



BPI sells VMC loans to Asset Pool

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS SOLD its loan exposure to sugar miller Victorias Milling Corp. to Asset Pool A (SPV-AMC) Inc., a special purpose vehicle led by US investment bank Goldman Sachs, sources said.

In a separate disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange late Wednesday, VMC comptroller officer Jose Vicente Jo-Rodriguez said fund managers BPI Asset Management and Trust Group likewise sold its 30% their rights, title and interest related to loans to VMC.

VMC said it was informed by BPI of the transfer from June 30.

Goldman Sachs is an affiliate of Asiaco Investment Asia, one of the largest privately owned debt trading and investment management firms in the United States.

BPI's sale to Goldman Sachs included collateral, security interests and mortgages related to loans of VMC.

Officials of BPI and Asiaco Asia were unavailable for comment, however, oil rep confirmed the loan exposure to sugar miller Victorias Milling Corp. to Asset Pool A (SPV-AMC) Inc., a special purpose vehicle led by US investment bank Goldman Sachs, sources said.

Deal brings total BPI bad debt sold to P17.3 billion

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Ayala pursues preferred share offer, taps 7 banks

AYALA CORP. OR SEVERALLY signed an agreement with seven banks selected to do planned primary offer of P3 billion worth of preferred shares.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala said it had signed an underwriting agreement with BPI Capital Corporation, Bonifacio and Mongeal Bank, First Metro Investment Corporation, PCI Capital Corporation, RCBC Capital Investment Corporation, Chinabank Corporation, and Insular Investment and Trust Corporation.

Ayala will offer 30 million preferred shares at P100 apiece from July 13 to July 24.

The tentative listing for the shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange is set on July 21.

Ayala has the option to issue an additional 20 million preferred shares to bring its total offer to 50 million shares worth P5 billion.

The proposed share issuance will raise funds for Ayala, which could be used to pay down debt or fund working capital, sources said. — Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Steniel readies for rehab

CARTON BOX PRODUCER STEniel Manufacturing Corp. is preparing itself for the worst after receiving but Wednesday its shareholders' approval of the plan to go to court for corporate rehabilitation. Steniel banks first chose on its assets, company officials told Inquirer yesterday.

Steniel corporate secretary Glenore Mosenja said, however, that despite this go-ahead from shareholders, the company had yet to make a decision on filing for corporate rehabilitation.

Negotiations with creditor banks to settle Steniel's P600 million in past due debts are still on going.

The stock exchange yesterday suspended indefinitely the trading of Steniel shares after the company received the shareholders' approval. Steniel is scheduled to hold a meeting with its creditors on Wednesday.

A source at one of Steniel's major creditor banks said the option to go to court for rehabilitation was available to Steniel.

"If we agree with it, then we operate that there is no problem. If not, we just have to fight it out in the court," the source said.

(TOMMEL B)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Roxas Boulevard corner Bae Luis Street
Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **LINK2SUPPORT, INC. (L2SI)** with office at the Eastwood City Cyberpark has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) its application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its product support ad customer service call center based on project cost, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA (Tel. Nos. 551-66-44 and 551-24-57; and telefax 551-3456).

LILIA B. DE LIMA
Director General

BP prepares for Aussie mining code

AUSTRALIAN MINING experts will be in the country on July 20 and 21 to hold a compulsory information seminar on Australia's Joint Ore Reserve Committee Code.

The Philippine Stock Exchange said the JORC Code compliance forms part of a joint government-private sector plan to formulate a Philippine Mineral Reporting Code (PMRC).

Australia's JORC Code, which is considered as internationally recognized standard in the mining industry, sets out minimum requirements for public reporting of exploration results and ore reserves.

Francis Lim, PSE president and chief executive officer, said that proponents of the proposed PMRC wanted to use the JORC Code as their model code, choosing not the PMRC.

Other groups supporting the seminar are the Philippine Mineral Development Board, Department Trade and Industry, Chamber of Mines, Miners and Geoscientists Society, Philippine Institute of Accountants, Board of Investments (BOI).

The Australian Agency for International Development through its Philippine Governance Reform Facility is supporting the shift to JORC with a technical assistance.

Shares decline 1.52%

From page B1

The broader all-shares index fell 14.86 points to 1,395.09, with all sub-indices finishing in negative territory.

Losers beat gainers 81 to 19, with 56 stocks ending the session traded valued 1.0 billion shares worth P1.2 billion ($22.79 million).

The peso traded at 51.453 to the dollar.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone was the most actively traded stock, closing down P35 to P1,918.

Globe Telecom also succumbed to profit taking, sliding P20 to P840.

Bank of the Philippine Islands gave up P1.50 to close at P81.00, while affiliate Ayala Land retreated 20 centavos to P3.2. AFP

Del Monte stirrings

SHIFTS THE RIGHT THINGS DONE

When the Philippine principals of Del Monte Pacific acquired 66.5 percent of the Singapore-listed company, Del Monte Pacific now controls not only the decision-making but also the operating shots.

The proposal is to be taken up during a special stockholders' meeting on July 26 called by the new Del Monte Pacific board, chaired by San Miguel president Ramon Ang.

According to the Del Monte 2005 annual report, up to about 12 percent of the 15-person board will be held by minority shareholders or in the names of Branson-based members rather than creditors.

In addition, the said Del Monte Pacific CEO Joselito Campos Jr. says Del Monte Pacific to integrate its considerable media and packaging budgets with those of San Miguel's and IPC's. Take Pal's—the latter two companies controlled by Campos—to attain economies of scale.

The consolidation would enable the three food, beverage and confidence companies to combine their advertising placement budgets to arguably obtain better agency rates.

For 2005, San Miguel alone spent more than P7 billion in advertising and promotion expenses.

And for the same year, San Miguel Packaging Products reported revenues of more than P20.7 billion.

Mapua joins exodus

THE MAPUA Institute of Technology has joined the exclusive move to establish satellite campuses in Laguna and Cavite.

According to the grapevine, the Varsitarian-controlled school has acquired the shuttered Technica store by the Sta. Elena exit of the South Luzon Expressway and is now ready to fix the clubhouse property in time for the 2007 school year.

Pasay Road trap

MOTORISTS taking Pasay Road from Dela Rosa to go to Greenbelt and Legaspi Village this weekend, watch out for this traffic trap.

Using antiquated traffic lights as bait, the traffic "police" flag down and ticket motorists who turn left, even on green to either Jim Builders or Punto de Rosas.

The supposed violation is that the small arrow light should also be green before motorists would make a left.

The catch is, the green left turn arrow does not turn red to signal stop but merely switches off even when the main through light is still green, thus letting unsuspecting motorists to still make a left especially when the oncoming lane is clear.

Ironically, the same policemen allow the forbidden left turn during weekday rush hours when traffic is tumbler-to-bumper, thus setting up the same motorists for the weekend kill.

Money-go-round

■ CONSTRUCTION magnate Felipe "Philip" F. Gozon Jr., who is being implicated in the Jueteng payoff scandal, is "penalty tight" in the Hyatt 10 round-up it's doing. A number of projects in Davao that is partnership with Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

■ TV host who interviews quasi Chinoyses with their family in the United States, Bill Monroe, said is offering to both old and new customers buy-one, take-one economy dance package in Manhattan.

Heard through the grapevine

IN addition to stockbroker Victor Sachsenmaier and Land Bank president Reynaldo David, Mike Arroyo has a new weekday golf buddy in The Foundry Club who joins by the persuasion of "Kano Gonzon."

BTeam (mikeb_pdi@philstar.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Steniel . . . From page B1

Steniel president Gonzon Gallegos said going to court was the company's "last option" as it was after the banks' last option to foreclose on the firm's assets after declaring bankruptcy to default on its debts last month.

He also said that management believed that it could turn around Steniel's operations in the next two years.

Gallegos did contain silliness of Steniel in buying out the 1.06-percent stake of Steniel (Belgium) Holdings NV in Steniel (Netherlands) Holdings BV.

Since Steniel (Netherlands) owns 82.3 percent of Steniel, the sale has in effect, placed the ownership of the publicly-listed firm into the hands of its local management.

Steniel (Belgium) is the holding company owned by Europe and Asia investment advisory firm CVC Capital Partners Asia Pacific LP and Asia Investors LLC.

Steniel is currently seeking creditors' approval of the sale of idle assets worth about P200 million.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Aganon

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Unit Prices as at 27 June 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.0227
Managed Fund - Peso	1.5044
Growth Fund - Peso	1.2097
Bond Fund - EURibor	1.051

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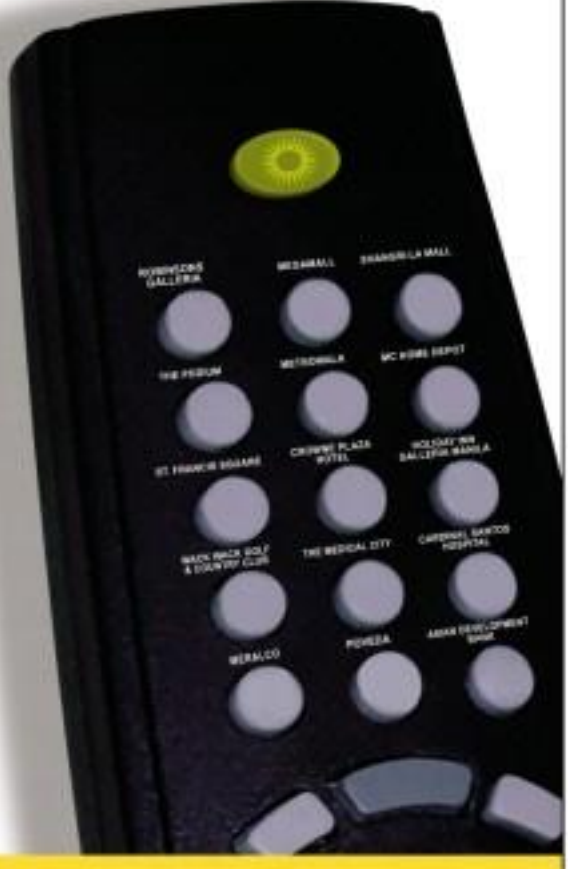

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WESTERN UNION

Cebu Pacific posts market share of 41%

CEBU PACIFIC AIR PAC YESTERDAY SAID IT had posted a 41-percent share in the domestic air travel market last month, snatching a significant slice of the pie from rival Philippine Airlines.

In a press statement, Cebu Pacific said this was by its highest market share in its 10-year history.

The airline's market share for June 2005 was only 31 percent, it said.

A source familiar with the airline's operations said the increase in market share is expected in June since at the expense of Philippine Airlines, which is the country's largest airline.

"We were able to get passengers from there," the source said, insisting that Cebu Pacific's aggressive pricing strategy resulted in luring flyers away from the more established carrier.

The company said that June has historically been a "lean travel month."

Despite this, however, Cebu Pacific reported a load factor of slightly higher than 70 percent for the period, carrying 63 percent more domestic passengers in June 2006 than in June 2005.

"The steady growth in market share and load factor is attributed to the aggressive pricing strategy adopted by the airline," the statement said in its statement. Dorian L. Lucas

JFC pursuing expansion plans

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP. UNFAZED BY THE expected slowdown in store growth this year, will continue its overseas aggressive expansion plans, particularly in China, the United States and India, company officials said.

Jollibee chair Tony Tan Caktiong told reporters the beleaguered giant would go ahead with building a new Jollibee branch in Guangzhou province, its first store in China this year, and a Red Ribbon bakeshop in Simi Valley in the United States.

Jollibee chief finance officer Ysmael Reyes said Jollibee was expanding about P400,000 to put up a store.

The company also plans to open 20 Yonghe King stores in China this year.

Jollibee is spending about P1.5 billion for capital expenditures this year, which will include putting up 100 to 120 stores both local and abroad.

In India, Jollibee is planning to acquire a fast-food chain.

Jollibee is backed up by P1 billion in cash from operations, a total of P17 billion in assets and zero debt.

For any acquisition, it has no existing credit line of P6.5 billion.

Despite its strong financial condition, sales growth for the fast food giant is expected to be weaker in the second quarter compared to first quarter performance sales due lower consumer spending and higher utility costs.

System-wide sales...or sales from both company-owned and franchised stores—rose 15.2 percent to P8.5 billion in the first quarter, though Hong Kong in China accounted for the highest sales growth (12 percent) followed by Jollibee (9.8 percent) and Chowking (6.5 percent). Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Third bidding for Mimosa planned

NORTH Sulawesi Governor Sinyo Harry Sarundajang tours the agri-industrial trade fair at the provincial capitol grounds in Barangay Maasi, Olgan City during his visit to Gov. Benjamin P. Bautista. The Indonesian governor pledges product trading business with the province. ALEX LIGAYA/INQUIRER.NET

CDC board seen to decide in next week's meeting

By Raoul M. Dominguez

CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORP. IS CONSIDERING holding a third round of bidding for the 223-hectare Mimosa Leisure Estate following the revocation of the award of contract to a South Korean group, the highest bidder in the auction for the property held in May.

Antonino R. Ng, president and chief executive of CDC, said in a telephone interview that the agency had sent the notice to NTH Jin Heng Joint Venture Corp. last July 5.

Ng said the move means the second round of bidding held last May had failed because the winning bidder failed to comply with the bidding terms of reference (TOR). The first round held in 2003 failed to attract bidders.

"Companies given 15 days to 30 days to start the implementation of the TOR from the day it was awarded the contract on June 5," he explained. "We have given it more time than that, but we have to make a decision after a month (with NTH Jin Heng having done nothing)."

Ng said CDC officials were disappointed with the outcome of the latest attempt to privatize Mimosa Leisure Estate considering that NTH Jin Heng's offer promised the government initial revenue of P650 million on top of a yearly rental of $1.2 million.

"If NTH Jin Heng also promised to post in additional investments of P1.43 billion for the improvement of the property's villas, casinos, golf course and country club, promenade and hotel.

Ng said the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel had advised the CDC to start implementing the lease agreement and to revoke the contract following NTH Jin Heng's failure to meet the terms of the bidding.

"We did that to be consistent with the entire bidding process and the TOR," he said. "If we did not accept the offer of NTH Jin Heng's only company claiming the bidding because it has not submitted a few minutes late, we should exercise the same strictness here."

Ng said there was nothing that would stop the company from appealing CDC's decision but that "it appears there is no legal ground" for such.

Earlier, the official said CDC had two options under the law...to either go into a third round of public bidding or to enter into direct negotiations with at least three parties.

"What we need to do now it is a post-mortem, to see what lessons we can learn from these recent developments," Ng said.

He said the CDC board would discuss its options and decide on what to do next in its meeting next week.

CDC took over the management of Mimosa in 1999 from operator Mundinger Leisure and Resort Corp. after it failed to pay the lease rentals amounting to P484 million.

Strengthening social provisions of mining regulations proposed

THE COUNTRY'S REGULATORY framework for the mining industry is comprehensive and stringent enough to promote sustainable development, but its implementation is weak, according to a university-based think tank.

Emilio L. Habito of the University of Asia and the Pacific's Center for Social Responsibility said achieving and sustaining a development agenda in the mining sector rested in "strict adherence, vigilance and effective implementation of mining laws, which at present is rather weak."

The findings form part of a study called "Rapid assessment of the sustainability agenda in the mining industry" conducted by CSR, EAP) think tank on sustainable development and business sustainability.

Habito said the study showed existing firms were facing growing risks because of increasing public awareness about sustainability related issues.

The study covered the following 12 factors of sustainability: Environmental screening, impact assessments, audits, process improvement and products and services; clean production methods; freedom of information, local economic growth; stakeholder engagement; human resource management; governance and management, and community development.

Habito said that while the growth of the areas that have mining projects was not yet apparent, all the other factors were adequately provided for through laws, executive orders, plans and policies.

He said "there appears to be room for structured approach to understanding complex social justice issues in mining, especially those on ethnicity, class, gender and corruption.

"Policies related to mine closures, decommissioning or rehabilitation are biased toward environmental, safety and health issues," Habito said.

The study, he said, recommended the encouraging of the social preferences of the company for the sustainable mining and the development of a framework to coordinations with stakeholders, resolution of grievances, and development activities to closed-mining sites.

"There must be a rethinking of government strategies to promote mining through new ideas, new faces and young blood," Habito said.

"Also, reforms in mining agencies must be out in need to promote transparency and accountability" he said.

At the same time, officials of Canadian-affiliated TVI Resources Development Inc. and Australia's Indophil Resources (Philippines) Inc. said their companies were taking steps toward responsible mining mainly through partnerships with government agencies, local communities and even non-government organizations.

However, the officials said the entire industry should strive harder to establish better relations with stakeholders considering that mining firms were not well-liked especially after the Lafayette incident.

The former industry czar under Erap Joseph Estrada Estrada was killed after Australian Eric Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s president in Rapu-Rapu Island off Albay ceased mine talking communication and allegedly fish kills.

Raoul M. Dominguez

Farming communities and retirement

By Brenda M. Dedoloi

IT WAS AN UNUSUAL NIGHT LAST JULY 2, Leopoldo Flores, an Ayanna Agribusiness farmer in Tarlac, messaged, "Mike, advertised the mostly Metro Manila-based titles in the Makati Shangri-La Ballroom. More than 600 people had come to participate in the first Retirement Industry and Investment Summit.

Flores said the retirement opportunity was not just for big developers, but also for farmers and small entrepreneurs.

Retirement has always been considered an investment and livelihood opportunity. But it is only now that its huge potential is being recognized.

Last year, the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) performed well, considering the little it engaged it received. PRA increased retiree registration by a month to 50 persons, as shown below:

PRA RETIREES

AGE	2004	2005
35-49	191	180
50-64	148	250
Above 65	51	51
Total	390	481

Almost half of those registered are in the 35-49-age category. They seem more like business people than retirees, who have taken advantage of the PRA registration to be able to engage in business here. We also note that for the "above 65" age category, there are only 51 retirees.

Noel Gonzales, the retirement summit chair, said we can do better than this. Malaysia and Thailand each registered much more than 10,000 retirees last year. He said, "A main reason for our poor performance is that we have no retirement infrastructure to speak of."

As a former Cabinet secretary told me last year, "Retirement cannot succeed in the Philippines because there is no one in charge. Different government agencies mark on retirement, but there seems to be little coordination. What we need is a presidential czar, similar to former Energy Czar Delfin Lazaro, who will direct all government retirement-related efforts."

New environment

Last May 30, President Macapagal-Arroyo gave us that retirement year in PRA chair Felipe Aglipay. She also declared retirement as a presidential flagship project.

The private sector similarly responded. The housing, healthcare, lifestyle services and other retirement-related industries, such as those in tourism, financial and human resources development groups, organized formally into Philippine Retirement Inc. (PRI). The PRI-PRA partnership intends to give the retirement industry the united focus and support it needs to succeed.

Farmer intervention

It is in this context of a united retirement industry that Flores gave his remarks to the people that just packed the ballroom for that day and told people like him should be an integral part of the retirement industry. He could do this by housing retirees in homes in their communities.

Research has shown that more than 80 percent of retirees in developed countries do not live in huge retirement enclaves. Instead, they stay in smaller independent units that have effective connectivity with healthcare and lifestyle services.

Flores said that in his Barangay, Aldao community, they can provide the same retirement package at much less cost. This would be specially attractive to farmer retirees because they would be living in familiar agricultural communities. In addition, they would have the opportunity of sharing their technology with the Filipino farmers and thus lead more fulfilling lives.

However, Flores said his community would only benefit from PRI-PRA on the identification of the global standards for these homes as well as the training necessary to meet those standards.

Community approach

For a rural community (or even urban communities like BF Homes), its leaders can identify the type of retirees they want to further develop their community. For example, they can choose agriculturists, agriculture engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers in specific disciplines and healthcare professionals as needed areas in their community retirees.

Incentive arrangements can be made for them, such as lower registration fees.

The community leaders can provide special opportunities for foreign retirees to share their technology, knowledge and wisdom with the Filipino community.

This could even make the retirees' golden years even more fulfilling and productive than their earlier years.

In addition to the mutual sharing between the foreign retirees and the Filipino communities, there are significant financial benefits.

Imagine a community targeting a dozen houses with three to five renters each. Each retiree will spend a minimum of $1,000 or P50,000 a month. Multiply this by twelve months, and you have P600,000 per retiree. Multiply this by 50 retirees, and you have P30 million a year for that community.

Conclusion

As Flores said, retirement is not just for the big developers. It is also for other sectors of society, such as farmers and small communities. Their-cut-cost to be a center among municipal mayors for the best retirement park, age they can formulate. The objective is to attract the most desirable retirees who will help their communities with needed skills and create the most jobs.

The PRI-PRA partnership wishes to extend its help down to the interested small communities throughout the nation. This can be done through various means, such as identifying and enforcing global standards, training and human resources development and other support mechanisms.

Starting August, the PRI-PRA partnership will hold courses and feedback sessions at 9 a.m. every Monday in Makati Inc Lasses. Go to the Venue and Away for Weekends for more information, call Daisy Bernardino at 818-1432 to 36 or 0915-315-1697.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. Inquiries, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 912-85-66.)

COMMENTARY

BSP probes ...

From page B1

In an earlier interview, Saporiti said he did not deny suspicions that price wars being manipulated, but he refused to make additional comments.

Other banking sources explained that the alleged price-fixing was made possible by a memorandum that circulated among traders, urging them to quote a specific price at a specific time.

"I think the BSP is still trying to find proof of manipulation, and it's still in final proof," one bank treasurer said.

Bankers Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo Coronel said there was no industry-wide slugging of bond bond prices, and that it's best to give the BSP time to complete its probe in the matter.

"It's nowhere only a few people, inc. the weight of the law fell on them," Coronel said.

As the BSP did not have access to **specific bank records, he said the as**sociation was in no position to judge whether there was collusion. But Coronel said that it would be willing to help implement stiffer rotation.

Coronel admitted as much that the BAP did not exercise enough oversight on the system.

As a solution, he suggested the formula for MART1 should be enhanced or banks should be encouraged to source trades through the Bulgaling Real Income exchange Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) where participants must register.

"I think you'll see the volume of trade in PDEX increasing," Coronel said. "That's the best solution as of this."

Terrorist funds ...

From page B1

reporting that is being followed, Aquino said.

Philippine casinos which are regulated by Pagcor are submitting reports through Pagcor," Aquino explained. "While not among the covered institutions under the anti-money laundering law, [Pagcor] has undertaken to submit suspicious transaction reports regardless of the amount involved."

Also, the Securities and Exchange Commission has tightened its regulations on non-profit organizations (NPOs), identifying donations, and in line with concerns on money laundering and terrorist financing, he added.

The BSP recently issued a circular governing the operations of NPOs, foundations, and charities, Aquino said.

"They are now required to disclose their transactions—the recipients of the funds that they receive from abroad, the amount, and the source of funds from abroad and how within," he said.

The APG meetings were hosted by the Philippines for the first time since 1999 and attended by 250 participants including experts, leaders and policy-makers representing 21 member jurisdictions and 17 observer organizations. Afghanistan and Canada joined the APG for the first time.

During the Manila meetings, whose plenary sessions closed yesterday, the APG members committed to undergo compliance assessments on global anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing standards. The members also agreed to nominate the members of the APG until December 2012. Doris C. Dumlao

Shell to boost gas production

By Abigail L. Ho

SHELL PHILIPPINES EXPLORATION BV (Shell) has committed to increase gas production at the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project to power another 500,000 megawatts of new power plants in Luzon.

Following recent talks with key officials, including those from former president Fidel Ramos, Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Shell) Managing Director Raphael Lotilla said steps were underway to boost gas supply from Malampaya to fuel additional capacity "in time for the critical period in Luzon", which has been hit 2008 or 2011.

"One imperative is that a fourth pair of their responsibilities under the service contract," Lotilla said in a briefing.

"The investment to be made would have to be determined at the technical level, but discussions are underway to contribute to the natural gas requirements," he added.

Shell external affairs manager Bernardo Perez confirmed that the consortium had agreed to boost gas production from Malampaya under Service Contract 38 amid the gas extracted from the gas field should be enough to support a capacity of 3,000 MW.

Malampaya currently supplies gas to three power plants with a total capacity of 2,700 MW: the 1,200-MW Ilijan, 1,000-MW Santa Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo plants, all in Batangas.

In a separate interview, Shell congratulates the Philippines country chair Edgar "Dan" and Apex would still have to secure the situation before coming up with an investment plan for the planned increase in gas production.

"Everything depends on the timing. It's something we are looking at, but are yet to finalize. We'll get back to the [Department of Energy] most likely this fourth part of the program," he said.

He refused that there were some issues that had to be resolved, including the fact that, for a long time, the Batangas drifting before minimum takeor-pay levels due to transmission constraints.

"There are still issues on the transmission side but we can overcome as well. A good number are the way forward is close," he said.

Iran firm taps PNOC geothermal company

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL Co. Energy Development Corp. has been taken on as a consultant by a company in Iran that will develop a 55-megawatt geothermal facility near Mt. Sabalan, Iran.

According to the state firm, the project with Iran's New Energy Development Organization would start in October or November, but, depending on the results of the refolding of the contract to be the project construction.

The project could have started as early as this month, but unresolved issues prompted the need to find another consortium for the job, PNOC-EDC said.

The state firm's consultancy contract with the Iranian company will run for two years.

In an earlier interview, PNOC-EDC vice president for technical services Manuel Ogena said the state firm, with its team of experts, was well-positioned to expand its presence in the overseas drilling market.

"We have a good team of experts here, so we confident to offer our drilling services to clients in different parts of the world," he said.

PNOC-EDC is currently negotiating for possible drilling contracts in Australia and Argentina.

The Philippines is the world's second largest producer of geothermal energy with an installed capacity of 1,904 MW.

PNOC-EDC accounts for 1,148 MW, or 60.3 percent, of that total.

Costa Rica, Honduras to help RP export bananas

By Christine A. Caglican

COSTA RICA AND HONDURAS have committed to help the Philippines gain access to the European Union market of bananas, the Department of Agriculture said yesterday.

The two Latin American countries, which are large-scale exporters of fresh fruit/nuts, have reportedly told Philippine government officials a deal to export to Australia, which has been pending for 13 years.

"These countries have provided and they are willing to help us," Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban said yesterday in a briefing.

The DA has likewise requested the Advocacy Center on WTO Law (ACWL) to determine the best approach in negotiating with Australia before the WTO. Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano said in the same briefing.

ACWL is a trust fund put up by developed countries to help developing countries bring their complaints of unfair trade before the WTO, Serrano explained.

Banana industry players are backing the RA as its bid to bring the case involving cotton trade practices before the WTO.

Serrano said the Philippine banana industry has committed to shoulder a "significant portion" of the estimated $1,500,000 that it will take for the government to pursue the case before the WTO.

It has been almost four years since Australia blocked the entry of Philippine banana due to reports of a tropical disease that could destroy Australia's banana industry.

This has since been refuted by both plant experts of the Philippines of Wuxi Industry and Philippine banana exporting companies, but the Australian Quarantine has not responded to the claims allegedly due to pressures from its Australia Banana Growers Council.

Local banana exporters led by the Davao Banana Growers and Exporters Association said the Philippines was already the world's second largest producer and exporter of Cavendish bananas.

The country even dare to displace other Asian banana variety and phytosanitary rules.

The industry exported $158 million worth of fresh bananas in 2005.

INSULAR LIFE

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
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Equity Fund	1.141349	1.081211

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Franchising firms head for the provinces

THE TEA Square is just two years old but is already making waves.

New concepts on the block

By Mike L. Morales

LEMON YOU PROBABLY THE only flavor of tea a common man knows until Tea Square.

Since opening in 2004, Tea Square has been making waves by not drinking in the sun offering a wide variety of flavors that included favorites—Strawberry Raspberry, Cranberry and Cherry—and more.

From a small brewing kiosk at the Mabuhay Trade Center in Macapagal, Tea Square has expanded to 12 outlets—four outlets are company-owned—found in malls such as Greenbelt 4, Shangri-La Plaza and recently at SM Mall of Asia.

Tea Square is just one of the 20 new businesses that the association of Filipino Franchisees Inc. has welcomed to its fold last week after a grueling evaluation of more than 50 applicants who wanted to be part of the organization.

AFFI member Ricardo Z. Cuna said the evaluation panel considered the quality of the applicants in terms of their concept, store design, their performance in the market and prospects for growth.

"We focused on the quality of new members during the screening as the panel interviewed every applicant," he said.

"We believe that a successful business has on the country's values. Also, some applicants were not yet ready to go franchising."

The evaluation process included checking the books of the business, plant inspections and personal interviews by the panel with the owners.

The new members of the organization are: The Outhood of Asia (TOPA) Inc., Tea Square, Oil Philippines Inc., Boys Burger, St. Infantasia's Cafe, Lugz, Fashionably Hip, Web Focus, Chili Fetch, Knockinbbq, Pronto, All Pecans Pitch, Etc., Brothers Burger, Silver Bells, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, My Apple Kapeng, Bobwin, Religion Pens, Iwasa MO, Popeye's Grill, PR Gal Music, Mr. Softy Ice Cream, Bright Network, Incantation Brothers Inc., Island Rx, Mang Inasal, Rich Pecans and Pronto Express.

The new additions bring to 73 the members of AFFI, a nationwide organization of Filipino-owned companies. Formed in 1997 by a group of franchise firms, the organization encourages the possibility of an entrepreneur to expand its business through franchising.

Most of the businesses that were inducted to the organization during the 2006 AFFI membership night last June 29 at the Makati Sports Club came from the food sector, while St. Infantasia's College became the first educational institution to be part of the AFFI.

Cuna said the AFFI noticed some shortfalls in one of the college's undergraduate programs, Bachelor of Commerce major in Management of Franchising Management, to AFFI's goal of promoting franchising as mode of expanding one's business.

"Incidentally some members of AFFI also gave lectures at St. Infantasia and learn about the curriculum of its Franchising Management course," Cuna said. "We saw the possibility of teaching young entrepreneurs about franchising from our experience."

Cuna added that despite the tough screening of applicants this year, more businesses inside the call because of their potential to grow big in their fields.

"All the new members are promising entrepreneurs from whom I see during the processing of their application," Cuna said. "Some of them are just starting in while others are already ripe to expand through franchising."

Still, he hoped that more businesses would join the AFFI because of the benefits the organization gives to members.

Every year, AFFI organizes seminars, conferences, franchise clinics, community projects and trade shows to interest and educate entrepreneurs.

These events are also open to franchisees and budding entrepreneurs.

During the "Franchise Invest: The 5th Filipino Franchise Show 2006," AFFI will showcase members and their products to prospective business people and franchisees.

The show also includes workshops and best mentoring from some of AFFI's veteran entrepreneurs.

By Rowena W. Domingo

FRANCHISING MAY not be considered a standout industry in the country like the much touted call center services sector, but it is but on the road of call centers in terms of growth and expansion plans.

Officials and new members of the Association of Filipino Franchisees Inc. agree that as more people take up the call of entrepreneurship, the tendency is for business to find new partners outside Metro Manila.

Incidentally this is the same direction that call center operators are taking as they look at offering open and skilled workers double in the nation's capital.

Rommel Jean, AFFI public relations officer, says that even in the metropolis, members are considering putting their outlets where workers are.

Jean, who is also president of Bizzies—known for its hot meals—stepped in business in 2002—says he has resumed up with four other AFFI members to set up a "satellite" in Makati City's Salcedo Village to take advantage of ridiculous "employees' meal for food at their odd break times.

"After going to the same fast-food joints night in and night out, these people would eventually be craving for variety," Jean explains. "That's the opportunity we see arising."

He says the dining strip they have dubbed Hang Out would open this month near the corner of Valero and Dela Rosa Streets.

"It is so hard to secure good locations," he says. "When I initially found space available, it was too big for Bizzies's maximum need of 60 square meters, so I asked others to join me and became sure to be an apparently good idea."

JOEY Concepcion, presidential adviser on entrepreneurship, at the left steps of the Association of Filipino Franchisees Inc.

Bizzies is teaming up with Richard Sison, whose brainchild Tea Square was recently endorsed as a new member of AFFI along with 20 others, says their ultra successful runs of his restaurants have been overwhelming, with his sights on the regions.

Tea Square is catching in to make the wise pancakes AFFI gives him a large group of businessmen franchisee headquarters.

"We set up an outlet in Cagayan de Oro City and it is now doing better than our Metro Manila branches," he says.

AFFI chair Tess Sigua Tan, owner of the Lolo A Pizza chain, says opportunities in the provinces and regional cities are so promising that she is now pulling up commissaries in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"Our top five branches are actually outside Metro Manila," she says. "Business is very good in our two outlets in Angeles City, Pampanga, and one in Laguna."

Ricardo Z. Cuna, current AFFI president and owner of ice cream chain Sorbetes, says his three top performing outlets are also located outside the metropolis.

Cuna adds that a significant number of aspiring new entrepreneurs are from the provinces and most of them are from families of overseas Filipino workers.

He says that factors are contributing to the growth of local franchises—the drive among OFWs to put their hard-earned dollars into businesses and the expansion cash of small operators over the past few years.

Malls are one factor evidence for exposure and we are not passing up any chance to be able to operate in a mall," Cuna says. "Mall outlets may not be the lowest performing ones for our franchisees but are here the high rent as advertising expenses.

According to AFFI, there are now some 900 franchises in the local market, around 60 percent or 540 of which are homegrown brands.

In 2005, AFFI members reportedly reported P3 billion in sales and this is expected to double soon.

"There is great interest in franchising and we expect AFFI to be a strong organization in the next five years," Cuna says.

AFFI is holding a franchising forum and exhibition called Franchising Expo at the SM Megatrade Hall in Mandaluyong City, from July 7-9.

Other members include Figaro Coffee Co., Aquabest, Sacred Heart School, Metropole Laundry, Wattle Watts, Candy Corner and Royal Caribbean Amateur Family.

MORE Filipinos are checking out business opportunities in franchising.

What are the long-term effects of sales promos? - Part 2

Q: I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS. FIRST, DO you have data on today's most used [illegible] sales promos, most effective? sales promo events and activities in the economy studied? Second, do you have data to say what's the real effect of sales promotions?

By rural, we refer to the long-term effect of sales promos as against short-term or immediate sales effects.

Our own experience in this practically all of our sales promos immediately increase sales. But later, sales of the promoted brand go back to previous sales levels, or even lower.

Is our experience typical or specific to us?

A: Last Friday, we answered your first question and the first part of your second question, now we'll continue answering your second question: Are sales promos becoming less and less profitable in the long-term?

The leading research firm of AC Nielsen in the United States shows that the usual long-term effect of a sales promo campaign is declining sales.

And considering how expensive the typical sales promo campaign can be, this suggests that sales promo driven brands are becoming less and less profitable over time.

And yet, as we saw in our May 19 and 26 columns, large consumer companies still keep doing sales promo campaigns that are even more aggressive and expensive.

We explained that two factors are responsible. First is the "tyranny" of the quarterly sales quota.

During depressed times and in a depressed market, marketers seem to see no other way to raise sales than to throw money "high profile" quarter-long sales promos.

Then, there's the pressure to match competitive campaigns that had been seen this "spend trap." It's a pressure that's hard to ignore.

Actually, we can see a third, though as yet unarticulated, reason why companies fall into the sales promo pressure and spiral trap.

Companies are yet to adopt the sales effectiveness post-testing of sales promos—one that extends over all four major phases of the sales promo campaign.

The current practice is to post-test just the first two periods with a few months lag (#1 is tested #3).

We've yet to find a company that's post-testing upon Period #4.

Obviously, if the post-testing were complete, i.e., extending to all four periods of the sales promo campaign, the spiral trap character of too much sales promo would be more obvious.

Of course, it's so easy to say that the evaluation period should cover all four periods. In practice, it's a requirement that's difficult to implement.

One major reason is that sales promos always overlap incoming.

This obviously makes it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain valid data of your trial (Period #1) sales trend.

But this does not happen all the time. There are many occasions when there's a "true period" between campaigns. It this is the case, take advantage and extend your evaluation for the last period.

Now, let's relate all these to your first question about today's most used or most successful sales promos.

It would be foolishly wrong to say that what is most used or most effective should also be your choice of promo to your sales promo campaign.

This is so even when you consider what we said in the May 19 and 26 about marketing's number-saying that promotes by any one specific promo event can just from most if not all of the 16 target consumer responses of sales promotion.

What should be remembered more is that each promo activity is best at triggering only one of these consumer responses.

For example, to inducing consumer purchase or usage trial, product sampling has the best record of delivering on consumer response, even though other promos like price-off, discount, coupon, buy-one-take-one deals also induce trial purchases.

Today's "best practice" requires us to think of bundling several promo activities that would best serve your promo campaign's targeted bundle of consumer responses.

That bundle of consumer responses serves to clearly define your campaign's specific objectives.

The idea of bundling several promo tools in your sales promo campaign logically flows then from your needed of how many promos work toward long-term sales effectiveness.

For example, in our model of the four-period sales effectiveness of a sales promo campaign, we see that there are four consumer responses to target, namely inducing other brand consumers to switch, and (b) the sales promo has to and during Period #2; getting the current consumers of the sales promoting brand to move forward to Period #3 then scheduled time purchases in Period #3; getting the same current consumers to also increase their purchase volume in their move forward there later purchases, and finally, restoring the trial purchases by the other brands' consumers, and convert big-time into repeat purchases.

Best practice and experience have identified the use in two promo tools that will best serve the targeted brand switching and trial purchase response in Period #2, the targeted current consumers' advanced purchases in Period #2, the targeted stocking or inventory purchases of current consumers in Period #2, and the targeted consumer repeat purchases in Period #4.

It follows then that if marketers are to effectively use the long-term sales effectiveness of their sales promo campaign, the bundling of promo tools to necessary client quantities to fit the right objectives or through 1085 at 896-3123, 344123.

MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberto
& Andy Roberto

Fashion from recycled materials is the new rage in Europe

By Nicanor Cabarroa
Philippines Luxury Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—MAYOR BETTY SIEGOLA of Lutos, Ignacio, recently visited la Trinidad, Benguet, wearing a bright orange sun hat and carrying a matching handbag.

She answered a lot of stares because her ensemble was cut and stitched together from discarded orange fruit juice concentrates.

They did not know that her get-up was the latest in fashion in Europe.

According to Dr. Betty Lynne Milgrom, a Canadian anthropologist, who presented a paper at the University of the Philippines Baguio last week, handbags and accessories in fruit-recycle materials have become a fashion phenomenon overseas.

She explained that there was keen market interest in the handbags and hats because these raw juice fruits are common to that part of the world.

"The juice drink bags currently in fashion abroad are those that picture Asian countries, and remember, because these are exported, people are looking for what they don't have at home in Europe and in North America—the other [such as] mangos, coconuts, cultural and dances," Milgrom said, quoting her study.

She said the people in town so proud that a European firm has started to look for its own supply of fruit drink packages from here.

She said European patronizing the products were more than recycled handbags were being manufactured by poor women of Manila, and that added to the products' appeal.

Milgrom, a professor of the Oceanic College of Arts and Designs, had been intrigued by the positive impact of the underground positions trade like Baguio's cheap shirt (used clothes) exchange center.

She said some dealers may score them in a world where "the hegemony of global capitalist" should enhance only cause small subscription "to lose their autonomy" as they come to compete in a market that is controlled by the bigger multinationals.

"In this way, Philippine women use the markets as innovative and sometimes disruptive ways, not as to rebuke to control [economic] exchanges but as to protect their interests in their own chosen frameworks and reflect [on] issues politics," she said.

Her recently now, Milgrom has been observing Kiba Multipurpose Cooperative in Manila, a couple year old manufacturer using them that managed to supply 10,000 novelty bags to the foreign market.

More interesting, she said, was the fact that the cooperative bypassed the contract without using the normal trade channels of businesses.

Like Kiba, the women of Lutos, Ignacio, have also gathered enough momentum to supply European orders, Mayola said.

She was here last week to receive a merit award on behalf of Lucas women from Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Some of Baguio's fashion designers have also handed out much due to the vast amount of recyclable fabric available from discarded clothes, now being eyed at the city's export [illegible] (wearing a modern interpretation of), said Rhoda Bacon, a local designer.

Milgrom said European appreciates the fact that these bags have their own interesting design patterns.

She said Kiba, for example, promotes its products like a factory line, with workers divided among sections.

Some sort the materials to get the best colors to process and design. Others do stitching and quality control.

"Some decorating [and fashion] magazines ... are displayed in the workshop for [visual] reference. A designer explains [that the magazines are there] to the popular colors [of a year]. One says, tell it the popular color. That year standards—strawberry juice drink [current]. The next year, when green is in demand, they design patterns with colourful juice drink packs and so on," Milgrom said.

"The competitive contemporary ways informed about global fashion tastes so that their bags can remain competitive in a global, by changing market," she said.

These women have started to experiment with other fashion products using fruit juice cartons' colors, she said.

Kiba has started producing sandal straps for footwear, and the products were well received in local and export cities, she said.

The cooperative also began sewing how discarded containers of textile juice and cut up can be used for fashion gowns, including jewelry.

HELLO!MP's promotional t-shirts on the demand for recycled products in the Underwriting of the Philippines in Baguio

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Empowering People

Amid complex strategic choices, leaders, managers go for 'laws'

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

(Turn to A3 for Part 2)

IN THE MIDST OF INFORMATION OVERLOAD on the so-called "best", "time-tested" and "foolproof" marketing strategies and tactics, you can almost hear confused and exasperated leaders and managers saying: "Enough!"

This is one phenomenon of the age. In this complex world, people thirst for the simple—and, yes, the elemental. With the avalanche of choices, people yearn for old fashioned order.

Instead of the marketing officer or a CEO besotted, bombarded and bewildered by as many tactics offered by numberless consultants in innumerable books—and becoming muddle-headed!

This explains the widespread hunger for a set of principles, learning tactics and methods of the leader and managing.

And this explains the drawing power of the "8 Star Brand Marketing Conference," held recently at the Philippine Plaza.

The father-and-daughter tandem, Al and Laura Ries talked about the "immutable" laws...unswing, unchanging, forever relevant, and eternally constant principles.

Take the "Law of Leadership," for example. The Rieses have a one-liner to explain it: "It's better to be first than it is to be better." And their epic lesson stories—Coca Cola, McDonald's, and IBM. That looked unarguable, at first glance.

And there is another law that seemed to contradict the first, according to one participant—the "Law of the Opposite"—which is also a one-liner: "If you're not the leader, then you need to be the opposite."

They cited Pepsi Cola, which became the role of the "youngest brand"—and there was born the "Pepsi Generation." Coke is 120 years old.

So, in the midst of such seeming contradictions, why are the Rieses so credible? The reason could be that one law works for one, and another law works for another. They are not actually contradictory; they may be stand-alone laws that work.

Another participant pointed out the seeming conflict between the laws of "focus" and of "divergence". The focus law stipulates: "Focus company products or services to keep adding products and services."

The Rieses, underscoring the need to focus, compared the success of Southwest Airlines, which they called a "one-trick" airline—no other destinations but business, no other class but coach, and no other flights but domestic.

The other airlines have this law of many words. They observed: Southwest is currently worth $12.4 billion, or more than three times the other airlines.

Counterbalancing the focus, though, they offered the "Law of Divergence," with this explanation: "Over time, a category will diverge and become two or more categories.

"Mining will from Charles Darwin's "Origin of the Species," they explained. "As species move out as single species and then, over time, diverge.... Divergence has created new categories of automobiles such as the sport utility vehicle and the minivan."

The Rieses have been observing the marketplace and have come up with the "optimal laws" that govern the market—and give realistic success.

These laws seemed to have stood the test of time simply because they provided some "anchors" or "principles" to market players. In turn, these players took these principles to heart—and their actions were blessed with success. A principle that has spawned many successes must be a valid one.

There is the success behind the ever growing following of the speaking, writing and consulting tandem. Such activities shadows one another.

The books that precede their visits country-to-country or city-to-city continue to have a growing following. Thus when a conference is organized suits them as creator stage, such a gathering is consistently crowned with great success.

There is not only a local increasing quality that Al and Laura draw. While they are massive to over half a million people around the globe, they tap into enthusiastic learners.

That's the secret behind their success. Their capacity to listen is as huge as their capacity to be heard in a very compelling and inspiring way.

FROM THE HISTORIC CITY OF PRAGUE, THE CZECH REPUBLIC

TANDUAY BRINGS HONOR TO THE COUNTRY ANEW

A Continuing Testament to the Excellence of the Filipino Spirit.

TANDUAY WINS 6 MORE MONDE SELECTION MEDALS, bringing to 117 the total number of international awards won to-date.

Continuing its 152-year tradition of product excellence and superiority, Tanduay recently won 6 major international awards in the prestigious 2006 Monde Selection held in the city of Prague, in the Czech Republic.

Cossack Vodka, not surprisingly, won a gold medal for the fifth time in the Monde Selection which brings its total to eight medals won since 1981. **Gin...Kapitan** got a silver medal for the second time around. Medals were also awarded to four products which joined the Selection for the first time. **Tanduay 1854** and **Tanduay Primiero (Ron 8 Años)** won gold medals, **Barcelona Brandy** got a silver medal while **Guerrero Brandy** garnered a bronze.

Cossack Vodka has been consistently winning medals in the Monde Selection since 1981. The new gold medal is Cossack's fifth gold in the eight medals it previously won and reinforces its consistent position as the "finest of Vodka with a clear, crisp taste and warmth in its heart."

2004 Monde Selection Silver medalist **Gin...Kapitan** was again awarded another silver medal this year, having been rated highly for its clean taste, flavor and appeal.

1st time entrants **Barcelona Brandy** and **Guerrero Brandy** were also recognized as exceptional standouts in their category, having been awarded silver and bronze medals, respectively.

Receiving the medals in behalf of Tanduay Distillers during the Monde Selection Awards Ceremony was H.E. Amb. Carmelita Rodriguez Salas, Philippine Ambassador to the Czech Republic. On hand to present the medals were Mr. Patrick de Hallewn, President of Monde Selection, Ms. Florence de Hallewn, Vice President of Monde Selection and Mr. Joseph Bessemans, President of the Tasting Board, Spirits and Liqueurs.

H.E. Amb. Carmelita R. Salas, Phil. Ambassador to the Czech Republic (center) receiving the medals on behalf of Tanduay Distillers, from Mr. Patrick de Hallewn, Pres. Monde Selection (left) and Mr. Joseph Bessemans, Pres. of the Tasting Board: Spirits and Liqueurs (right).

Ambassador Salas commended Tanduay for this achievement and for bringing more honor to the Philippines by showing to the world what the Filipino Spirit of creativity and excellence can achieve in a highly competitive global market. "These medals inspire us all to push ourselves to the limits and surpass all expectations of the world's diverse markets," Ambassador Salas stressed.

According to Mr. Wilson Young, Tanduay Distillers' Chief Operating Officer who was present during the awarding ceremony, these international awards signify once and for all that Filipino products can stand up high with world renowned brands. They also serve as a testament that the Filipino can compete against the world's best and be a class of its own, giving a big toast to the Filipino Spirit of ingenuity, dedication and hard work.

Monde Selection is an independent international institute based in Brussels, Belgium and considered as the oldest and most respected organization in the field of quality wine and liquor selections worldwide.

This year's awarding ceremony was held in historic Prague, in the Czech Republic, site of some of the oldest, most exquisitely architectured cathedrals and castles in the world. The capital of the former Czechoslovakia, Prague was also the birthplace of one of the sons of the Philippine Revolution, Dr. Ferdinand Blumentritt, hero, scholar and closest friend of the man he considered as "the greatest man the Malayan race has ever produced," Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

Tanduay 1854, the commemorative rum introduced in 2004 to celebrate Tanduay's 150th year anniversary, won a gold medal on its first entry into the competitive arena of Monde Selection. All the experts raved over the rich flavor of the rum which they say is "almost butter caramel, with high vanilla notes and light traces of eucalyptus." It has the "bouquet of oak elements" from 15 years of ageing in old Kentucky Bourbon casks, leading to a nicely balanced rum finish.

Since its establishment in 1854, Tanduay has been synonymous with consistent excellence and product superiority. For more than 150 years now, the company has been producing quality liquor products that continue to gain recognition from prestigious, international award-giving bodies. Proof of this is the 117 awards the company has won so far – an overwhelming achievement in the liquor industry, or any industry for that matter.

Tanduay owes this tradition of excellence to the expert batonnorship of its beloved Chairman, Dr. Lucio C. Tan and to its people who never stop to produce the best quality products at the most reasonable cost. Their devotion and never-ending quest for excellence build up year to year to adapt to changing times and growing expectations.

Tanduay Primiero (Ron 8 Años) won a gold medal on its first entry in Monde Selection and was described by the panel as "mellow and round on the palate" with a good intensity of flavor and a hint of toast in its bouquet.

Beyond awards, however, Tanduay's excellence is also bolstered by the fact that it is the second largest seller of rum in the world. Currently, Tanduay has distribution channels in China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Saipan, Australia, the US Mainland, Canada, Guam, Hawaii and New Zealand.

As Tanduay continues to win international awards and enters other countries in the world, year after year, the company reinforces its commitment to solidify its position as a global brand and crystallizes its vision of "One World. One Spirit."

Swarovski's Spring 2007 line brings new meaning to the phrase "clash of the titans"

EVERY YEAR, TRENDSETTERS say the same thing: It's about individuality. It's about daring to be different.

Yet, every year we say the same things—fashion lines that remind us of our mother's era or accessories that look back to our '80s pop star-wannabe youth. Fashion, design, architecture and art have become as cyclical as my wedding anniversaries.

Designers are constantly driven by artistic blockages (where Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde...sweet and spicy. We've been there; demonstrated, tot per gets dolls. Thought I up, porcelain ... boundless multi- fashion, I am really bored by monochromatic personalities.

So it is truly refreshing when true artistry and rich personality come to the forefront of fashion, art and design. Recently, Swarovski presented the Crystallized Couture Spring 2006/2007 collection in Hong Kong as the third Asia Fashion and Jewelry Ball.

The collection was not only a result of Swarovski's collaboration with various international designers, but was also an exercise in forecasting trends.

Swarovski's acceptance of contradictions

(VIEWS) C3

BODY LICIOUS. Victoria's Secret models

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Think fast. Be. think faster. The world's hi-speed data transfer is now at your fingertips. With a super-slim figure that's 3G-ready, this phone raises one critical question: Can you keep up? The new Motorola RAZR V3x. motomanic.com/ph

WINNER 3GSM Handset of the Year Award

Rain check

ON MARILEN: purple V-neck tank sweater, purple shirt and striped skirt (worn as a vest) by TG Basics at Tan Gan, blue umbrella from SM Department Store. On Michelle: powder-blue V-neck knit sweater, navy-blue shorts top (tied by TG Basics at Tan Gan. Lilac umbrella from SM Department Store

By Charlie V. Maru

IN THE WEST, THIS IS THE period when swimwear manufacture from billionaires for lots of hole-in-the-sun action. For homebodies, now's the time when all things summer scamper for shade or rain gear takes reign. At least in principle.

In local terms, it's a challenge to find footwear intended for the rainy days. Shoppers still think rain boots are those matte-finish black rubber kinds. Utilitarian and practical, but not exactly pretty.

Wellies, as the Brits call them, is fast gaining ground as colors, hardly like the subdued ones in crisp cities like London, but an improvement.

Even then, only the fashionable few would take to wearing rubber boots, even stylist Maureen Dimla found wearing an actual one, though, as for the few who have stylish ones, these colorful yellow wellies can find a place in their rainy-day wardrobes.

"They're really good for college students to travel from campuses," Dimla says. "They can take out their feet and socks and tuck in their pants under them instead. Good thinking!" she says, laughing. "No need to bring an extra pair of shoes. They're very pretty, practical, and also affordable, at around P500 a pair."

Dimla also says that Filipinos are generally too lazy to bring umbrellas or that foldable plastic raincoats may be the smarter alternative. So rainbrowsers more many-in-one: they can be folded and easily carried in one's bag. Rainboots save skin color in clear contrast and paired colors but can also present a color outfit—and quite a deal, too, at P599 for most styles.

"We're not a fashionable lot," she explains. "We'd rather get drenched in the rain than put on something right for the season." Which perhaps also explains why and more local retailers see a market for trendy wet gear, or that stylish rain bags from abroad aren't as expensive as they should.

Of course, being unfashionable is one thing, being impractical is another. There's nothing more uncool than dripping like a wet pooch in your shoes, however stylish they are.

Here are ten (or more) boot styles to make a walk in your shoes (style-wise).

"You can inject some style in any outfit with even your umbrella," she suggests. Whether it's in a solid color or in gay ones—plaids, stripes, polka dots—your umbrella can make the world's worst rain look like a really pretty day. It's proof of wisdom in the classical or modern sense—minus the unimportant printing.

Why be the drone anymore?

Wellies, as the Brits call those rain boots, now come in a shower of colors

ON MARILEN: multi-colored striped tank top, yellow bubble skirt and lace-trimmed belt by TG Basics at Tan Gan, orange-tan raincoat and green rubber boots by SM Department Store. On Michelle: tiedot shirt, watermelon-print top and matching shorts by TG Basics at Tan Gan, blue-green rain coat, and royal-blue rubber boots by SM Department Store

MULTICOLORED: striped knit shirt with crisscross and khaki shorts by TG Basics at Tan Gan, white rubber boots by SM Department Store

GRAND: knit shirt, bubble skirt and brooch by TG Basics at Tan Gan, red rubber boots by SM Department Store

CRYSTALLIZED COSMOS TRENDS SPRING/SUMMER 2007

Shining, shimmering, splendid

from page B1

In human terms this would be design that only revealed a clear cut theme for individual expression. The collection was true, total and beyond, with lines that spoke the truth: serious tailoring, bikini/corset, perfect flared, modern/constructed and seductive/relaxed.

He has to a world of opposites that seem to be forever clashing but, like chemical experiment gone right, also results in something perfect.

It must see his crystal designs that exemplified dainty, shimmery, splendid (and sure) into the work of Aspen designer Array Monk. Mexican of Khaki Mexican. Her collection—"Tribal Authority"—was a fusion of Native's ancient bonding techniques and today's modern steel-dependent cityscape. The result was modern antique, a true crystallization of Swarovski crystal, precious and semi-precious stones, gold, sterling silver, antique crystal, cultivated pearls, handmade beads and enamel fabrics. You couldn't deny her designs' textures, because Victoria's finest, the last word in sexiness, has called them "absolutely beautiful."

Just when you thought crystals were just for chandeliers, Swarovski shows you're never so sexy as—I'm quoting Maidens Mc-Cunningham here—"free yourself."

E-mail author at glo.boom@inquirer.com.ph

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Unbearable lightness

WHITE bandeau fringe dress by Jerome Salaya Ang ($99.74 | P5,000)

Young designers Jon Gaskell Fernando, Jerome Salaya Ang and Allain Dumon Fonte interpret images of the female form suspended between heaven and earth

LIME top and pants by Jon Gaskell Fernando ($99.74 | P5,000)

Text by Cleofe V. Moral
Photos by Jon de Leon
(using Phase One Digital Back)
Styled by Mike Arroyo

WHEN JON DE LEON signed up Mike Arroyo to style this editorial—the "resurrection" of Emily Rose (inspired by the Hollywood horror-suspense flick "The Exorcism of Emily Rose")—the stylist took on three relatively unknown designers to interpret the lensman's vision of "illumination" and "awareness"—varied images of a young woman suspended in mid-air, together.

Arroyo, one of the most in-demand collaborators, says it has been love and some of her original intuition to push for designers that "have potential" but whose talents, unlike some of their contemporaries, are largely unrecognized and, oh, un-hyped.

From an editorial point of view, there's also the advantage of working with up-and-coming designers who are only too enthusiastic to put their work out there. They make new clothes.

Unlike the usual suspects, these lesser-known designers always come up with new clothes specific to the theme of a shoot, says Arroyo. "Most often we don't have budget for these shoots, but even at the last

HAIR by Abbygale Arenas de Leon for Lancôme

Unbearable lightness

From page A4

minute. I [boy] would come up with something. Others would just head you, what's available"—shorties that have seen pains in corsets galore and fit-inflicted in town.

One outstep is Jun Cardell Fernando, who sees in Dr. Lewis's shortlist. The four-key formula focuses on the likes of Boy Abunda and some of Vicki Belo's clients, according to Arroyo. "His look is soft and feminine. He does not have something special about them. Jun comes up with unexpected details. There's always an element of surprise."

Jasmin Suhaya-Ang, who got mixed reviews in the recent Philippine Fashion Week, "is fashion-forward," opines the stylist. She adds Ang had come up with his feathed retreat boots used for this shoot even before Alexander McQueen sent out his version for Spring 2006's runway shows.

"Extreme is innovative," Arroya notes. "And his work is realistic-lehanik."

Celia based Alkain Diamond Foster came over the picture on the recommendation of Arroyo's sister, an events organizer and director. The stylist's verdict: "He has potential."

BLACK sweetheart fringe dress and boots by Jasmine Suhaya Ang (632) 411 1230.

WHITE peach outfit by Atlas Diamor Perez (632) 410 1619/0920-2736492.

cut & keep

Figure fixers

By Donna Cura-Pita
Contributor

EVERYBODY HAS A BODY part (or two) they want to have less of or, in some cases, more of. Read on and learn how to create the illusion of a better body without surgery.

Big stomach or 'puson'

Do:

1. Wear control-top panties. The under wear will help keep your stomach in and help-fitted clothes glide over your problem area.

2. Wear shift dresses. The for giving shape of this dress and its classic cut will make you look slimmer and fashionable at the same time.

Don't:

1. Wear low or high-waist pants. The best kind for you have a waistband that stops at the middle of your stomach. Why? Because having it lower will highlight your problem, and wearing your pants above your bellybutton will make it bulge out even more.

2. Wear light-colored tops. Light colors will highlight the area even more and attract attention. So if you're trying to hide your tummy, it would be best to wear a dark top with a light-colored bottom.

SLEEVES that stop below the fullest part of your arms will make your arms look slimmer.

Small breasts

Do:

1. Wear a slightly padded and/or un derwired bra. It's important to make your boobs look realistically bigger and not make you look like you have very exotic implants.

2. Wear tops or dresses that have eye-catching details in the front like ruffles or prints. The extra fabric will make your chest area look fuller and will also add interest to your outfit.

Don't:

1. Wear super tight, dark-colored tops. Really tight tops will compress your chest even more and dark colors will make your chest area less pronounced.

EMPIRE-CUT dresses or tops look very sexy while skating shoulder-duty concealing your tummy.

Big arms

Do:

1. Wear tops with sleeves that stop below the fullest part of your arms. Showing your sleeves end at the shoulder area of your arms will highlight the width even more. Letting the sleeves go past it will conceal it and draw the eyes to the slimmer area.

2. Wear a halter top if you want to go sleeveless. A halter cut top is to draw eyeing the thin area of slimmer arms more effectively than a tube top or spaghetti strap tank top.

Don't:

1. Wear cap-sleeved tops or dresses. Cap sleeves stop right before the fullest part of your arms and only look good on really slender people.

BOLD prints near the chest area will add depth and visual interest.

Big hips

Do:

1. Wear A-line skirts or dresses. The loose fit of these items will hide the width of your hips and highlight your slimmer waist.

2. Wear straight-cut or slightly flared pants. Skinny jeans and tapered ones will only highlight your hips even more. Straight or boot-cut pants will streamline your silhouette and make your legs look longer.

Don't:

1. Wear pencil-cut skirts. Wearing a tight, pencil-cut skirt will draw attention to your hips and show the dollar, once in width of your hip area compared with the rest of your body.

A FLOWING, fun skirt will streamline and minimize your hips.

MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS MODEL CITIZENS

Proudly 'lokal'

By Genee Padilla
Contributor

AGES AGO, THE TERM "SOUVENIR" was an all-around magic word for all sorts of things, from clothing to canned goods.

We have yet to stamp out the idea of the superiority of all things foreign, but aren't we all glad the "souvenir" here has gone out of fashion?

"The Philippines is a young country. If she were a woman she'd probably fall in the late teens or early 20s (but we won't have through the mill, so a little patience: young goes a long way). Well, she just had a birthday, and although independence day was a couple of weeks ago, it's never too late for some flag-waving.

This pictorial is a nod to Filipino creativity and can-do attitude. Talent and good taste abound in our shores, and many young, young Pinoys are finally beginning to recognize it.

This is not about reverse snobbery. So-and-sujon-toni' favorite imports, but just remember to keep your eyes peeled for domestic Philippine-made items. They are out there in abundance, items are even finding their way to those fancy-shmancy "souvenir" fashion magazines!

FEMALE: Babypot dress in tie-bulge-pebbled leather bag, Segovia Manila sandals and Kashmira white cotton blouse.

MALE: Chino in boys shirt and shorts. She like a cork necklace and Alcatraz earrings.

MALE: Alcatraz in Bench shirt shirt and jeans

CHARMAINE: Paterson in Pilipiri jeans and Jacqueline Bee.

ERMAGE: Alcatraz wears a Tyler-and-tonic and Kiley white leather bag.

MUTYA: Lane clothes as Arizona jeans and wears a Dabbie Co midnight blue shrug.

MALE: Tomas Bellanca wears Lubel's silver wedge shoes.

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LIFESTYLE

After its uncommon collaboration with Michael Roberts, Tod's reverts to what it does best

PLANCHE. A tiered-lace, leopard-print poncho, a buttoned hat and a retro '70s pocket-to-a-leopard-print, all from Tod's A/W '09-'10 collection. The black leather version of this poncho with a pocket-t-here's will soon be available in Manila.

METRO wedge heels with buttons, also seen in black

Back to its fashion roots

MEN'S belt bag

WOMEN'S coat, iPod case and clip-T bag, available in deep burgundy (above), chocolate and forest green

THE HERLINE, also available in green

THE MEN pointed ballerina flats

Text by Cloelia V. Pucel
Photos by Jim Celis/Precision

AFTER CREATING a stir with its Michael Roberts collection for spring, it's back to classics for the holiday luxury leather-goods house, Tod's, as it presents a women's collection for fall/winter with references to the 1940s.

"The Michael Roberts collection did well, and they were not by any means for everybody," said Flora Loiz of Tod's Hong Kong during the press preview held at the Tod's store in Greenbelt 4, Makati, on Monday. "But Tod's is known for holiday, so we're going back to our roots."

Tod's moves to collaborate with the American fashion illustrator and fashion editor was prodded by the recent industry trend of artist-designed lines for fashion houses. Roberts recreated Tod's signature formmaster structures into canvas and speedboat prints that appeared in women's shoes and a bag.

In Manila, the Roberts touch did before conquered in the line, a devastating concern which rope detail, according to Alyssa Arevalo, Tod's merchandising manager here, apparently perceived. Fil. unisex would rather get a leather bag for the same price.

Steven Sportsdotter Inc., Tod's Philippine distributor, can't decide to encounter that same issue in the coming season. The bags come either in soft canvas or in textured for a vintage look. Allegro and piazza are also used, the latter notably in a leopard-print pochette, which however won't be available in Manila.

Biker bag

The key pieces include the Designer, a remake of the biker bag. The handbag has distinct leather-ring handles, and a contrast and braided front pocket; the more casual style, in vintage leather, has leather-ring shoulder straps and contrast hardware on the front pocket.

MORE ON

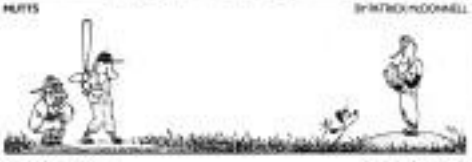
FOXTROT

A. LIPIN

BABY BLUES

PUGAD BABOY

NUTS



LOVEBONES

ATOMO AND WEBOY

DIVINE COMEDY

THE PRIMATE OF UGANDA

BIRD MACHINE

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BEH

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HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

		3	6		9			
						1		
	4	1				6		2
2				6				7
				5				
8				4				9
9		5				7	8	
		6						
			5		7	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle:

8	1	9	6	3	2	5	4	7
6	3	7	1	5	4	2	9	8
4	5	2	8	9	7	3	1	6
3	9	6	2	1	8	7	5	4
7	4	1	3	8	5	9	6	2
5	2	8	7	4	9	1	3	5
1	6	3	4	7	3	8	2	5
2	8	4	5	6	1	4	7	9
5	7	6	9	2	8	6	3	1

SOLUTION ★★★★

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Two-week 'gold rush'

Jewelry design contest launched

BANGLE of mabar white and smooth finish pattern gold in a crazy vine-woven pattern

THE SILVER JEWELLERY DESIGN COMPETITION by the Guild of Philippine Jewellers Inc. was launched recently at the Peninsula Hotel.

"The competition marks the Guild's commitment to the advancement and global recognition of the Philippine fine jewelry industry by discovering new talents in craftsmanship and designed previous accomplishments," said Joy Cartier, chair of the design competition and director of the Guild of Philippine Jewellers, Inc.

Cartier said this year's competition draws its inspiration from Philippine nature and challenges jewelry artists to craft pieces that highlight the beauty of the scenery.

Supported by Philapur, Multi, Discovery Suites, Jewelmer International, BPI Foundation, Sterling Gifts, Inc., New Life Jewelry and Hauki Pearl, the contest is open to students, professionals, individuals, companies and organizations based in the Philippines.

Fifteen finalists will be selected. The competition is divided into three categories: all precious metals, all precious metals and gemstones, and all precious metals and semi-precious gemstones.

Criteria are originality, interpretation of the theme and aesthetic and marketability.

Deadline for entries is Aug. 26. Call 7265720 or 7265726, e-mail gjpcwebsite@hotmail.com.ph, log on to www.goldsilverphilippines.com, or visit Unit 1110, City Land Penang Tytan Tower, Chino Roces, Makati City.

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BEAUTIFUL eye-catching homes along the Amstel River in Amsterdam

Amazed at Amsterdam

HAPPY people in one of Amsterdam's canals celebrate Anne Queen's birthday with a burst of orange colors.

THE WORLD FAMOUS houses of Amsterdam. A must-see place in Amsterdam!

STREET lamps decorated with orange balloons in honor of the Queen's birthday

PUBLIC celebration and organized debauchery, all for the Queen

IT'S ALWAYS LIKED DAY FLIGHTS, SINCE it gives me that ecstatic feeling of seeing the landscape out of the country you're flying over. Just after a perfect morning 11-hour flight from Manille on board a Boeing 777 by Asia's royal airline, KLM, we landed in one of the most gorgeous airports in the world—Schiphol—in wonderful, beautiful Amsterdam, Netherlands.

So no sooner than your toothbrush is excised, we find ourselves on minivans in our hotel for three days on the quaint 6/1 Museum Quarter, a walk away from the city's bustling activities.

Ah, Amsterdam. Definitely one of my favorite cities in Europe. One would most likely fall in love here where the pace of life is relaxed, small enough to explore, an intriguing combination of the local and the international and best of all, just everyone speaks good to fluent English.

Amsterdam is also a "thoughtful city" with a long-standing liberal tradition. (It has legalized prostitution and drugs-smoking coffee shops, would you believe?) It also boasts of tons of great eateries with some of the best Indonesian cuisine and eye-catching coffee shops.

There is not one Dutch I know who does not know how to bike. Learning to walk is followed by learning to bike. It's the Dutch's main form of transportation, so there are bike and motorcycle lanes. No wonder they have such great-looking legs, hahaha. And so wrinkle, too, air pollution is non-existent here.

We started our tour with a visit of the Dam Square. Facing the square is the fabulous Royal Palace, built in the 17th century, a short walk away from the square is a fantastic shower shop called Easy Winkel.

One tour continued close to the Central Station where trains come from all over Europe, including an express train that takes you to and from the Schiphol.

Along the canal are rows and rows of parking space for bicycles that are parked there by the bike commuters and locals who work around the no-cars-allowed business and commercial areas. No wonder they don't have any traffic problems at all!

In the red-light district are rows and rows of women, standing by their doors and lights and a show window, inside is a little room that has a bed and two chairs. Here, the "girls for-rent" in all types of kinky outfits sit in front of the windows. If the curtains are closed, you'd be red light to date, then you just have to wait for the customer ahead of you to leave the room.

Next day, I insisted we all go to the famous store/storefront at the Leidseplein, for the best Dutch apple pie.

The Leidseplein is where most of the day's sightseeing tours go for city's hi-tech pods for lunch and coffee in its gorgeous art Nouveau designed dining room.

A winner's throne setup is one of the important and cool popular of the city's pubs, the Wildest Dark. During summers, the park regularly hosts free concerts and art performances in its specially designed open-air theater.

Rembrandt museum

From there, you can go to the Rijks Museum and get the chance of seeing one of the most comprehensive collections of 17th century Dutch paintings, including loads of Rembrandt's gorgeous works. This year, the museum is celebrating 400 years of Rembrandt's birthday.

You can check out Holland's favorite beer at the Heineken Brewery which is just across the canal from our hotel.

One must also see the Anne Frank museum. This is easily the most visited sight where the young Jewish girl Anne Frank wrote her famous diary while hiding with her family from the Germans during World War II. The family spent two years in hiding till they were betrayed, arrested and sent to a concentration camp in Germany.

Out of the sight in the Jordin, only her father, Otto Frank, survived. Sadly, Anne and her sister died of typhus just one week before the German surrendered. It is said that while Anne was trapped in her house, she loved to hear the bells of the Westkerk, which was just a block away from her house.

Private customs to airport

After having our fill of herring, the popular fish which is usually eaten raw, cheese from old Amsterdam, excellent old gin—Bonne, yes, yummy Bollekes, a rich waffle with heavy sweet syrup and, naturellement, Dutch milk, so rich and good, we were driven off to the Schiphol airport to check out at the Asia Lounge.

The new restaurant/lounge by top KLM executive, executive Marianne Reeds-Pieters, who became our guide.

By the KLM check-in area were blue facilities, actually the new self-service web check-in machines. All you need are a passport and a credit card. And if you have a frequent flyer card or KLM Flying Blue Card, punch it in to get traveler credits. Just wait to enjoy! No need to line up at all.

Next stop was to the Crew Center where all the flight personnels meet and chill out before their flights. "KLM now has around 5,000 flight crew members," said Marianne S.P. There is also another section where only the "pilots and captains" hang out. "Very exclusive."

We were also briefed on the airport's high-tech favorite items: a passenger steps into this machine, which looks like a capsule from "Back to the Future", he enters both arms up in the air, so that he can be scanned. At a distance, a highly trained security officer can monitor the scanner's screen. It detects not only metal objects but plastic and ceramic objects as well. Because the machine takes the place of bothersome body frisking and searching, the system is more "customer-friendly," our guide told us.

We were then brought to KLM's fabulous Business and First Class Crown Lounge where passengers can purge on the spread on the hot buffet, watch television, check e-mail, take a shower, and sleep in the Zen-like sleeping rooms.

Schiphol airport has served 45 million passengers and for Soto named "the gateway to Europe" and recently voted the "Best Airport in the World."

KLM flies nonstop to Europe from Manille daily.

Call 887-2202, e-mail philippines@klm.com or visit www.klm.com.ph

TESSA Prince Valdini, Joanne Ramirez, Baron Travel owner VP and COO Jay Aldergue, and our carry our bags full of cheese in front of the renowned Dam Square in Amsterdam.

A PIECE OF BLUE. KLM's attractive Japanese stewardesses in Mies with our very own Tessa Prince-Valdini in her orange getup to welcome the Queen's birthday

MAN-MORNING. Tip your head back and swallow it Dutch-style.

TULIPS everywhere

ENCHANTING. Van der Vlugt, the ever efficient top flight cover attendant on our KLM flight back to Cosmo Manille

FANTASTIC shoes—of The Netherlands. The famous cheese market in Alkmaar, Holland

HOLLAND'S signature wooden shoes, known as clogs

THE RENOWNED Dutching coffee shop where you can have the in-demand Dogdicot spiked chocolate brownies

A HEBBION of the Choppers, in terracotta

THE D-Ville tassel by Princess Diana will be available in burgundy and chocolate.

MEDIUM shopper in denim-blue vintage leather

TO DIE FOR metallic knee-highs, laced-up (above) or elastic-footed (below), but you'll have to find them in a 'bad' colonic abroad.

HITTIP CLEAVAGE. This low-cut burgundy pair, in suede and patent leather combo, will be available here in black.

Back to its fashion roots

SHEARLING-TRIMMED leather bomber, paired black chiffon mini, T bag in brown grosso and knee-high boots with buckle detail

From page A1

Marlene, named after Marlene Dietrich, harks back to the 1940s and has a retro wooden shape with a woven leather button closure and coiled leather shoulder wrap. It also has a pochette version, some styles have jeweled button closures.

Tod's new shopper, also inspired by the biker, comes in orange-skin and has multiple pockets, its zipped top provided with a small metal-gunmetal padlock. As usual, the brand latches on to its portability by function with an update of its multiple-pocket T bag in rich shades of chocolate, burgundy, brown.

The pre-fall collection, available next month (the F/W line will be in stores September), also brings back the D bag, named after Princess Diana who favored the semi-structured drawstring satchel.

For shoes, the fashionista savvies a preppy zip with navy soles and small-heel sandals. It comes in suede. A dressier version has a patent leather zip with a bow and rubber pebbles. The rubber pebbles also reappear in the sandal with detailed pavoni pumps. A wedge-heeled style mimics the look of the buttoned ballerina, in patent leather.

The new men's shoes called Jace have a sleek, urban silhouette. For the first time, Tod's also presents an all-black patent line for men that include the low-cut Jace, a wing-tip and a classic Gommino. The driving moccasins appear to pony.

The boots collection would probably send footwear-crazy Filipinas drooling. They'll have to buy them overseas, however, as only one style—a mock-hooked ankle-to-calf with rubber pebble detail—will be sold here, and only in black. Too bad for Manila watchers, Arevalo said.

Some pieces from Derek Lam's collection for Tod's were also previewed for the Manila press. After a positive feedback for his limited-edition, seven-piece collection for spring...Tod's first apparel line...the Italian-turn-designer expanded the fall collection to 45 pieces. In Asia, the clothes are available only in Hong Kong and Tokyo.

LEATHER-AND-CASHMERE jacket and jeans from D'W apparel, suede hat with a ribbed yoke, brown messenger bag and rubber-soled ankle-high jazz shoes with elastic sides

MEN'S J&D collection, in all-black garment leather

THE CLASSIC men's Gommino, in pony

Balancing life with help of superb herb

Steven "Pumar" Evans

WITH ALL THE STRESS THAT ONE goes through every day, balance is what everybody needs for health and beauty. How to achieve that balance is the big question.

Enter the adaptogens. These are substances that adapt to the body's needs, meaning they can restore physical, mental and emotional stress, increase energy, boost immune resistance and enhance entire body functioning with minimal side effects. Among all the adaptogens, the one that stands out is Rhodiola rosea.

Though Rhodiola rosea may have been unheard of until a few years back, the Russians have been studying and using it since the 1960s. Even early cosmonauts and Vikings have been known to harness the herb's power. Rhodiola's efficacy are the very reasons it has been called in recovery. It can boost energy, improve memory, enhance performance and increase stamina—benefits that gave the Soviet military and cosmonauts an edge over their NATO war adversaries.

But those are the properties quest to look good—and be slimmer—Rhodiola still has got you covered. It helps regulate the body's metabolism, making the shedding of pounds easier. It also helps with the digestive system, regulating bowel movement and easing constipation.

Even "Pumar" Evans himself can testify to this.

One of the country's heroes of the moment, Evans is the second Filipino to conquer the peaks of Mt. Everest. He needed blood pressure normalization and it was what he got from Rhodiola®G, the health supplement from Body4Life.

Rhodiola® is made from pure Rhodiola rosea, enhanced with Green Tea and nine-step-pure Rhodiola. Each capsule helps balance your entire body system—replenishing what you lack and getting rid of what you don't need. Nature' elements that Rhodiola®G helped boost his endurance during the climb.

Rhodiola®G can also give more physical strength and endurance. In Soviet studies, 32 young men on Rhodiola had a 5 percent increase in their physical work capacity. The herb can also boost the body's immune system. Patients who took it with antibiotics healed faster. This means fewer chances of you getting sick and longer staying power on the badminton court, golf course, or even the good old treadmill.

Rhodiola has also been known to ease depression. It elevates the brain's happy hormones dopamine and serotonin. And amazingly, on the flip-side, it can also help with cases of insomnia. A couple of caveats though—it isn't an effective cure for severe cases of depression, and it could increase mood swings in people with bipolar disorder.

Rhodiola rosea's amazing capability stems from its unique composition. It has 19 amino acids that are deemed necessary for normal body function, 20 trace minerals, and vitamins, alkaloids and flavonoids. It also has high antioxidant properties. These properties increase the body's ability to absorb oxygen in the blood, resulting in delay or prevention of fatigue; headache relief; increased stamina and alertness; enhanced memory and mental capabilities; and even help with conditions such as cerebral thrombosis, arteriosclerosis, myocardial ischemia and angina pectoris.

Rhodiola®G is available at Mercury Drugstores and Watsons nationwide.

KRIS, BOY SHARE THEIR SECRET TO BEAUTIFUL, HEALTHY BODIES

Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino flaunt their slim bodies before the press

Three days, eight-pounded head gained and 10kg of talk Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda are looking exceptionally great and healthy.

When asked about what keeps them in shape and healthy, Kris and Boy instantly gave the wonderful reasons behind their fabulous form—Xändo Block and Burn tablets.

Xändo Block and Burn is a natural, clinically-proven, patented weight-management supplement that helps people with moderate weight to lose and maintain weight safely and comfortably.

Developed by Nils Mortimer in Norway, Xändo has three active ingredients extracted from kidney beans, apricots, fruit and chicory—ones that help users shed off extra pounds. It effectively reshapes up to three times more weight by safely blocking carbohydrates, starch and sugar in the digestive tract and prevents excess carbs from converting into fat.

According to Mortimer, "When people do not know or fear what they are in the grocery and they ingest the unwanted there is often on the label of a processed product that says zero fat or zero carbohydrates, they are not aware that carbohydrates turn into sugar and sugar into fat."

Xändo partially blocks carbs from food before it even turns into fat to prevent burning of stored, unwanted body fat.

Kris is quick to sing praises for Xändo. "I'm great thing about Xändo is that even if you don't have an active lifestyle, you can still reach your ideal weight. It has no unknown or ideal weight daily even with many workouts. So now I look good and feel healthy."

When asked about how effective Xändo is, Boy excitedly relates how he sought his doctor's advice before taking Xändo. "Whenever I have a minor issue, like to begin [a] drink water. I am a water person and I am cautious with what I take. Water is core for everything to me," says Boy. So when he was introduced to Xändo, he confirmed that he was naturally limited in fats, since he had not taken a slimming pill in his life. But when Xändo came into the picture, he was very vocal Xändo and told he is glad that he did.

In just over a month of Xändo, Boy has lost 10 pounds and he is still working. "Weight is fine, not had problems with the weight and is happy with himself," Boy is proud that he is now down to a 32 inch waistline. "I am happy with the effects of Xändo on my weight loss. It feels good to be an size 32 again."

From his experience, Boy has proven that Xändo is as safe as it is effective. He hasn't experienced any side effect since he started using Xändo.

Kris, who has tried almost every weight loss pill on the market, adds that the downfall of research that went into developing the product has convinced her to choose Xändo.

Xändo Block and Burn has been proven safe and effective by a European clinical testing entitled "A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo controlled Trial of a New Weight-reducing Agent of Natural Origin" conducted by Dr. Erling Thorn in Hedberg and published in The Journal of International Medical Research.

Results of the study show that people who are using Xändo tablets lost up to three times more weight than diet alone and 85% of weight lost is body fat.

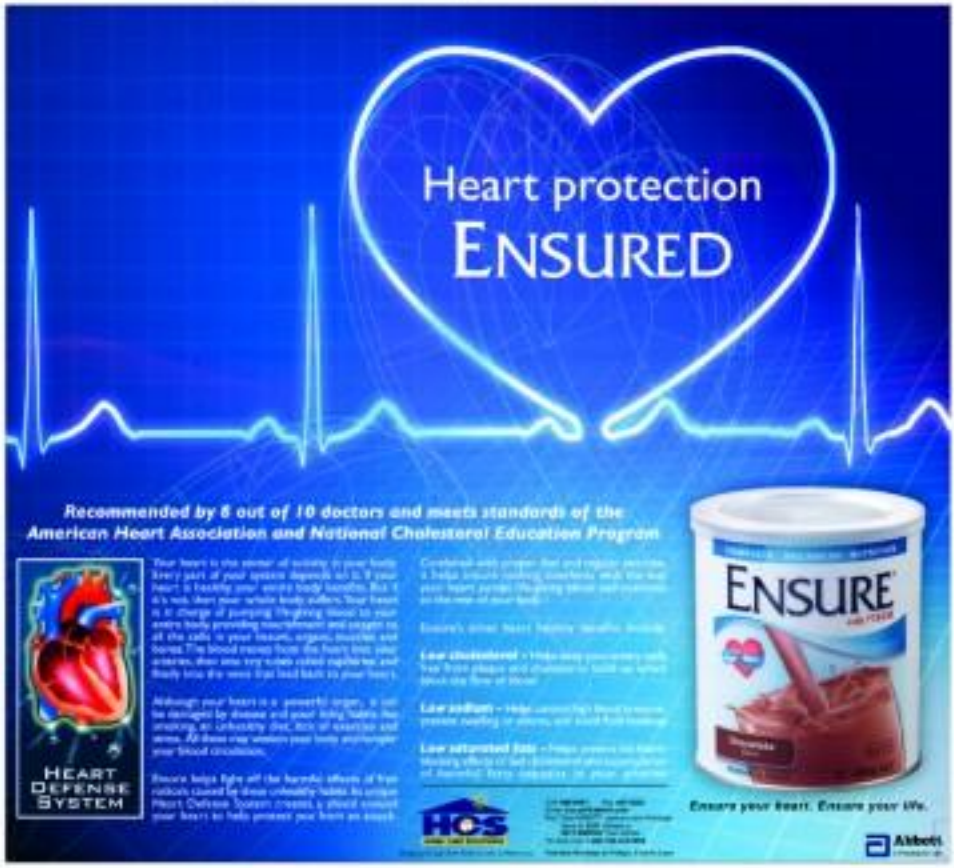
Aside from the positive results of the trial, Dr. Thorn noted that other studies on Xändo showed that the test to find it recognizes the power of natural human desire to eat it and doesn't try to deprive people from eating the food they love.

Xändo also does not contain caffeine and laxative that will have users feeling uncomfortable. So Kris and Boy might maintaining and losing weight either, the unexpected side effects of feeling jittery and frequenting the toilet.

Kris and Boy take care to turn Xändo Block and Burn tablets with a glassful of water before meals.

With work in progress in theirs, Kris and Boy confess the need to pay attention to their health and they are still aware that healthy cannot be sacrificed for career. With Xändo, Kris and Boy insist no worry about keeping in shape and being healthy.

Xändo is exclusively available at all Watsons outlets. For more information, please call 727-9999 or 0922-88-XÄNDO (92636).



Contributing editor
Rio Francisco-Prieto

BEAUTY

Scent seduction

There are hundreds of perfumes available out there, and finding the right fragrance can be tricky

SCENT IS A MAJOR player when it comes to trying to attract someone and feeling good about yourself. I love a lot of perfumes, but not all smell good on me. I guess it has something to do with body chemistry.

Recently, I was on the phone with my old editor this bruja-Cruz and I told her I have reached an "I don't know what to write about" slump. I love beauty and enjoy myself talking about it during the day, but sometimes having to write about it a difficult because it then becomes work.

In this told me I should write like I was talking to her and not having the computer. Genius!

There are hundreds of perfumes available out there, and finding the right fragrance can be tricky. The best way is to test it first on your skin and leave it on for a while. What it comes to scents, the sure knows best only when the fragrance is already settled in your body smell good. Even the bottle, but it may not when you're wearing it.

This is something I have to fess: religiously because I have fallen victim to liking how something smells from the bottle and even when smell by friends, but then smells different when I finally wear it. This is because we all have different body chemistries, and apparently mine doesn't complement a lot of scents. I don't smell bad, I swear, but some scents make me.

When buying for perfume, I've noticed that when I try on similar scents, after a while my nose gets numb. However, trying on different types is true fudging, so one piece how much others use and to do a lot of sniffing, there were coffee beans available for us to smell in between scents to revive our sense of smell, and they worked!

Rio Francisco-Prieto

The next time I go out to buy perfume, I promise to have coffee beans on hand or maybe even just Nescafé coffee in a little vase. I may look foolish, but I will be confident I won't have the same I'd be bringing home.

Perfumes are expensive, so it is important to be smart shoppers. I suggest you try the coffee beans approach, too. If a lot of people do it, then it would look normal, right?

My scent of the month is Gap Dream. I love it so much I want to make sure I smell it every time. In fact I am a victim of over-spraying, which is not good. One time the people in the car I was riding in all started coughing because I had sprayed on too much perfume. They had to roll down the windows on both side and I think if they could have left me at Ayala Avenue for a while, they would have.

So for all scent-lovers like me, I think there should be a rule to keep in mind. Don't over-spray, and don't spray on your scent in enclosed areas.

More perfume tips:

• When choosing a fragrance for others, stick to classic scents. A friend that's been in the market long is obviously less risky than new fragrances. Also, consider the recipient's age and personality.

• The ideal storage condition for fragrances would be room temperature. Never place them under direct sunlight, which may cause discoloration.

• A change of color in the scent, or when you detect a sour smell when you open it, means your perfume is deteriorating. Throw it away.

• Apply perfume directly on your pulse points. And layering. Applying the same scent in different forms is the best way to make the fragrance last the whole day.

E-mail the author at rfrancisco@inquirer.com.ph

Budget-friendly beauty

Text by Patt Pastor
Photos by Rocki Romero

WE CAN'T SHAME THAILAND FOR many things...Pad Thai, Thai massages, Chatuchak market and now, beauty that is friendly on the pocket.

Sheene (the last C isn't silent), Thailand's leading beauty brand, is now in the Philippines.

SHEENE skincare

Philippines, say hello to Thailand's Sheene

Since its launch 15 years ago, Sheene has become a market leader in Thailand, among trends in terms of color and beauty advancement. Beating the rest of Thailand Best, which guarantees quality, the brand is displayed in more than 200 stores and is also available through direct selling in Thailand.

KIT, the company behind the brand, has decided to take Sheene to the world. Its first stop, the Philippines. Carolina and Raymond are now on the fold.

Sheene's Achista Prisha, who visited Manila, said, "Thai skin is very similar to the skin type of Filipinas. Sheene has a lot of products to offer them, so master what their skincare and cosmetics needs are."

And she's not kidding. Right now, there are over a hundred Sheene products to choose from in the country, and there's more coming.

"Our range can cover all kinds of skin. Whether you have a problem with dryness, with oil or pimples, we have products that can help," said Prisha.

Sheene's powder products are very popular in Thailand, selling about 500,000 pieces of each kind every month. It's no big surprise, since the brand has all kinds of powder for all kinds of people with all kinds of skin. Pressed, two-toned, perfect powder, perfect powder cake, with SPF with shimmers, natural, glow, loose and colored—there's guaranteed to be a Sheene powder to suit your needs.

The people behind Sheene put a lot of focus on research and development...than the emphasis on quality. Five years ago, they released their BB Free line which has been a big success. Now, Sheene now also offers oil-free eye shadow, blush, foundation, powder, facial wash and more.

The brand also recommends vitamin enriched products like De vitamin C whitening line, which is composed of cleansers, toners and lotion to day cream and night cream.

Prisha is proud of Sheene's eyewear line, too. The latest mascara that can make your eyelashes appear longer and thicker, say have the Super Curl mascara which contains with a brush that's angled differently, and are also have the Sheene Mousses which comes in a smaller package and is handy so you can take it wherever you go.

Sheene's lush products include the Spa Cream Soap (P146.75), which comes in three variants...refreshing lime, energizing orange and soothing pink.

Lipstick lovers will be pleased to know that aside from being smooth and easy to apply, Sheene's lip products smell and taste good.

Aggressive marketing

There's no such thing as too young or too old for Sheene, said Prisha. While girls as young as 13 are attracted to its candy-colored lip products, more mature women can enjoy its anti-aging benefits.

Sheene's aggressive marketing techniques (it's known for its TV commercials, magazine leaflets and promo-items in Thailand) are already being mirrored here in the Philippines. The brand has been holding samplings every weekend in different malls like Greenway, SM Sta. Mesa, SM North Edsa and SM San Lazaro, where interested customers can avail the help of beauty advisers and sales personnel in choosing the right Sheene products for them. Sheene also offers gift items like cute little bags and similar phone pouches with its prints.

The response has been very favorable. Right now, the best-sellers include the Oil Free & UV Protection SPF 35 Pressed Powder (P190), Jojoh Kiss Lip Gloss which comes in seven colors (P68 each), Q10 Body Lotion (P169.75), Shimmery Juicy Lipstick (P269.75), Natural Shine Lipstick (P205.75) and the four 2-in-1 Lipstick (P189.75).

"We're glad Filipinas are very open-minded when it comes to trying new brands," said Prisha.

Sheene fans in the Philippines will have a lot to look forward to, as new products will come in every two months. Filipina spa-ers are to enjoy the benefits of Sheene's Aura Cream, which promises to clear pimples and help blemishes fade in just hours. And in August, Sheene will launch its Aura line, a denim-theme makeup collection.

"Sheene is for the girl that shines," said Prisha.

And it's good to know one can shine without putting a dent in the pocket. Sheene offers true value for money, with its most expensive product being sold for less than P500.

In these hard times, your quest for beauty doesn't have to drain your hard-earned.

Sheene is currently available at selected Watsons branches around the city.

THE THAI makeup brand's cosmetics line

PIA Guzmán wears her dramatic brown skin

Sun-kissed glamour

IT IS EASY GLAMOUR THIS SEASON at The Body Shop. While in the hot season we saw saturated colors dominated with sheer whites, now we see the emergence of the in-between tones encased with soft, tranquil shades for a look that is both pretty and multitasking.

The new collection gives a taste of tropical beach parties and fresh, sunny days, providing a cool, individualistic look with the merest hint of quenching color.

Nail Polishes (P1,395). Fabulous faces this summer are flushed with a subtle glow thanks to the metallic Luminizer new from Dermes. The shade palette focuses three-dimensional shades to create a sensitive, beautiful bare-necked design; a base of bronzing powder with tinted shades of illuminating and blush shades to light up the face.

Shimmer Smudgers (P595). The line's signature shades are Pink Blossom, Summer Blue Sky, Aqua Strawberry and Silver Iridescent.

Bare Shimmer Smudgers offer an eye-catching new way to wear color. These innovative powder eye color offer smoothest color pay-off, coming in three fresh, fabulous, all-over hues, enriched with hands of light reflective pearls. What's more, it comes with a round applicator.

BB Gloss Lip Treatment (P595). This comes Peach Pearly and Pink Rose Pink. The two new BB Gloss Lip Treatments ensure a look that is fresh and fruity yet utterly feminine and luminous.

Vitamin C Plus Time Release Capsules (P1,195/28 capsules). Vitamin C Plus Time Release Capsules contain a time release system, delivering Vitamin C to the skin as required. Vitamin C Plus Time Release Capsules contain Vitamin C, Blackcurrant Oil and Broad Bar Oil to moisturize skin.

The Summer 2006 Colour Trend collection is available in all The Body Shop stores. The Body Shop has more than 2,000 stores in over 60 markets worldwide.

PIA Guzmán wears her dramatic brown skin

NICOLE Hernandez

Whitening products for men

KOREA, THE SKINCARE CAPITAL has launched Nivea for Men Whitening, the first all-natural whitening range for the masculine skin.

The new product has been specially formulated by the Nivea research center in Germany using advanced technology. It brightens men's complexion, lightens discolorations, radiates blemishes, ensures suppleness, prevents the formation of premature fine lines.

Nivea for Men Whitening consists of two products: Nivea for Men Whitening Facial Foam, a mild cleansing foam to help brighten the skin while rubbing it of impurities for a whiter, healthier appearance; and Nivea for Men Whitening Moisturizer SPF 20, the first moisturizer with whitening properties specially developed for the masculine skin.

Nivea for Men Whitening is dermatologically tested to be gentle and non-irritating for all skin types. When used regularly for four weeks, men's skin will have a noticeably whiter, and smoother glow.

Nivea for Men is now available in all leading department stores, supermarkets, and health and beauty stores nationwide.

NIVEA skincare for men

Redefining flawless skin

REGARDING THAT FLAWLESS skin goes beyond mere whitening, Shamira Tan, president of An Apple A Day Inc., developed a line of soaps that would bring out the clear, clear, healthy skin. Flawless Ultimate Whitening Soap.

"We've become so used to equating fair skin with beauty that we sometimes don't realize that it's only part of the complete image. Pale skin also has to be clean, clear and healthy for it to even be called flawless," Tan said.

Sindhuning Filipina-International 2005 Maria del Salusa Cabral radiates charm and good health. A top 10 finalist in this year's Binibining Pilipinas, the 22-year-old Filipina beauty finds time to pursue a promising modeling career while being a devoted wife and mom.

Married believes that flawless skin comes from good health, or more specifically, wellness. "I believe that my skin reflects everything we subject our bodies and minds to," explains Maricel.

For Maricel, flawless skin is a natural consequence of a healthy lifestyle and being able to get the proper perspective on life.

Married likewise believes that you don't necessarily have to spend a lot of money on skincare if you follow a healthy lifestyle. "Of course, it doesn't hurt to choose skincare products that are suited to you and help bring out what's under the surface," she said.

Clean

Model Eric Menkiena knows the importance of flawless skin. Known by his outstanding physique, the 23 year-old model/actor/singer/TV host pays much attention to skin care until he found himself regularly appearing on comedy for some of the best known designers in the country.

"I am very fine of work, it can sometimes feel like I'm being inspected under a microscope so naturally, I have to look my best and that starts with clean skin," says Eric.

The most guys his age, Eric leads a very active lifestyle that includes sports, basketball, jogging and regular workouts at the gym. He also prefers to keep skin care as simple as possible. That's why he says he tries to get eight hours of sleep every night and regular doses of vitamin C, his regular skincare regimen so, when keeping his skin clean and blemish-free.

Active lifestyles also require products that have antibacterial properties such as those found with premium containing tea tree oil (a key component of Flawless Ultimate Herbal Therapy Soap for Men).

For Dra. Flawless skin has less to do with whitening than keeping skin moisturized and clear. That's why it's particularly important to use products that can be used regularly without irritating the skin.

At 25, Jen Aviles is of her fashion for a much younger woman. This bubbly marketing executive credits her youthful looks to good genes and clear skin.

"I'm the type of person who's better off not using too much makeup because it can actually make you look older than I really am," she said. "I realized early on that I had pretty good skin so all I needed was to maintain it and make sure I didn't develop any zits," she said.

Jen said that people should look for products that are gentle and do not irritate the skin.

BB. PILIPINAS International 2005 Maricel Talisa-Cabral

Natural nose job

cut & keep

Using makeup, you can attain your idealized nose, and it is all temporary and painless

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan
Photos by Pio Sy

OUR NOSE IS THE CENTER OF our face, and in most prominent features. Whether you have a "pug nose" (apologies to the Miami-Los Angeles state, a particular nose or a small button nose, women in general always find fault with their noses' shape and size.

That's why some resort to nose job or rhinoplasty. Because nose job is an extensive, scarring, pain and nervous, many of us think it is safe or risk-free. Well, think again.

Swelling, bruising, bleeding, and, in some cases, a new nose that you are not happy with are some of the risks you have to face, not to mention the amount of money you would have spent.

So why take the risk when you can accomplish the same goal with makeup? Using makeup, you can sculpt your idealized nose. It is temporary and painless. If you don't like it, you can start again. I wish I could say the same thing with surgery.

We only need three tools for a new nose:

1. Sponge
2. Concealer brush, small-edge contour if possible
3. Concealer
4. Foundation
5. Loose powder
6. Contouring shadow

We needed to straighten the nose of our model—accomplish a bump and give her the illusion of a straight and proportionate nose.

1. Using a thin concealer like

brush, shade the sides of the nose with a cream foundation two tones darker than your skin color. When contouring a nose that has a bump or is crooked, look straight in the mirror. Begin the shading at the inner edge of the ladies and while working down toward the nostrils, adjust the shading area to create the illusion of a straight nose. Then, with a clean brush or sponge, blend out and soften any harsh contour lines.

2. Using a makeup sponge or powder puff, apply loose powder to set the foundation. When powdering around areas with contouring, pat gently with the loose powder. When using a powder puff, try to apply the powder in one circular motion by placing the puff down on one side and pivoting it to the other. Then lift the puff straight up. This will prevent rubbing off the contouring.

Avoid making the dark shade too thick. This will only make your nose look thick or dirty. Remember to keep the thickness in the width of your pinkie nail.

As usual, the key here is to practice, practice, practice to get that perfect shape.

E-mail the author at [illegible]

Get purer, brighter skin

MARY KAY'S NEW PRODUCT, the PureWhite brightening system, aims to help a woman reveal her most radiant complexion by effectively targeting the major causes of skin darkening while lightening spots that have already appeared.

Created with Lucentrix technology, a patent-pending blend of ingredients exclusive to Mary Kay, PureWhite addresses unwanted skin pigmentation, which is a major concern that causes the skin to appear lifeless and blemished.

The product line has seven products—PureWhite Cleanser, PureWhite Softener, PureWhite Essence, PureWhite Day Lotion with Sunscreen SPF 15, PureWhite Night Cream, PureWhite Mask and PureWhite Liquid Foundation—all designed to aid in restoring the skin's natural balance and help even out skin tone and prevent further discoloration.

PureWhite delivers a Triple-Layer Action that restores the process leading to discoloration by delivering active whitening ingredients to the precise skin layer where they are most needed. It works within the three major layers of the skin—stratum corneum (topmost layer), outer epidermis, inner dermis—to target the causes of dark spots. Skin is then restored to its youthful clarity and protected from further damage.

With continued use, PureWhite will help one achieve an even-toned complexion with greater clarity, translucence and radiance.

Call 8095211 or visit www.marykay.com.ph

GET luminous with Mary Kay

Change your life, and other tips

THIS JULY, MARIE CLAIRE MAGAZINE encourages women to start making the changes they've always wanted to make.

Join six women as they decide to take the plunge with a makeover, Marie Claire-style. Find out if a seemingly hopeless pack rat can live up to the challenge of downsizing all her clutter in this month's Marie Claire Challenge. Learn the skills every woman should master or leave home without, as Marie Claire gives you the lowdown on how to change a flat tire, how to be Miss Congeniality, and more.

And while life coaching has yet to reach us in the Philippines, three women share why it has helped them and how it might help you.

Marie Claire magazine has seven lovely inspiring reads in your comfort zone. Cover girl Dida Valdez proves just that, not only with the sensuous aura she has played to shore his, but also with the various spins her life has taken. At age 28, she's at her prime and raring to take on more, as she shares her 13 secrets to being happy life.

Grab your copy of the July issue of Marie Claire magazine, featuring Dida Valdez on the cover, now available in magazine stands and bookstores at P125 per copy.

Palmer's unique formula has been developed specifically to help you prevent stretch marks due to pregnancy. These occur when your skin loses its elasticity due to stretching beyond capacity. Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula for Stretch Marks offers a unique blend of pure Cocoa Butter, Vitamin E, Collagen, Elastin and rich emollients that enables your skin to retain its natural elasticity, suppleness and moisture.

Use Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula For Dry Baby Skin, Massage Cream and lotion once or twice a day from the beginning of pregnancy on areas most prone to stretch marks such as the stomach, breasts, upper thighs and hips.

To keep your skin soft as a baby's even after pregnancy, use Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula Post Natal Firming Lotion and Nursing Cream. For your baby, you can also apply Palmer's Bottom Butter.

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Beat the ugly days

PMS can affect not only your moods and sense of well-being, but also the way you look. Here are some remedies

PREMENSTRUAL SYNDROME doesn't just make you feel down, it has the power to make you look, hmm, so well. It seems the week before your period, with uncomfortable symptoms that only go away on the second day of your cycle.

I will share with you my method for beauty damage control so you don't have to take things taking down. Some recommendations are not actual beauty products, but they have been vouchsafed by me and have my thumbs up rating.

Water weight gain leading to swollen legs, hips and hence wholesale walking-shoulders tightness. Diuretics like Nature's Beauty Water Pill with Potassium (P160/30 tablets). If you take ordinary diuretics, make sure you buy potassium tablets and take them regularly. Diuretics alone will wreak havoc on my electrolytes. A rule of thumb, though, even without the diuretics, is a constant need to urinate.

Constipation that causes shrinkage and a huge stomach. The very worst before my PMS. I can manage three short straight without going to the bathroom. I don't even begin to tell you how unbelievably fast it, as visions of blood poisoning swim in my head. As it is, I am also prone to blockage regular days, and I had relief via fiber supplements like Herbalife's Fiber tablets. Still, the week before the bad days, even the fiber tablets don't work for me, so I reach for suppositories which I take every other day, just in the big day itself.

For mild to moderate acne, I recommend Dalvelan, Benzicot or fiber supplement. For those who have green difficulty, try my favorite, Benzicot Forte. Two tablets of Benzicot Forte will give you a flat crown zit-removal stomach the next day. Apparently, by the second dropout of a lot of extremely models during live shows or photo shoots. Do not, however, take laxatives on a daily basis because you will become dependent on them and your system will stop working on its own. After a while, you may even be immune to the treatment. I see them only three to four days every month for PMS and, of course, on days when you really are suffering from actual constipation.

Sensitive skin and acne caused by fructose in oil products. I used to use Herbalife's Fiber tablets. Still, the week before the bad days, even the fiber tablets don't work for me, so I reach for suppositories which I take every other day, just in the big day itself.

HELETOSH 3 mg, P340 for 60 tablets

Difficulty sleeping, causing you to be sluggish and cranky the next day. Dash under eye circles and hesitancy on the tan sensitive of the problem. Melatonin 3 mg tablets will help you relax and fall asleep faster. Sleeping away from all caffeine during this time also helps. The caffeine in chocolate, soda, coffee, tea, even green tea and nuts. If you have to drink something warm, drink chamomile tea instead, as the have mild sedative effect. But not too much, though, because it also has a diuretic effect that would keep you up at night with frequent trips to the bathroom. In some cases, Melatonin doesn't help much, so you may have to see a doctor who could prescribe stronger sleeping aids.

I get my supplements like The Vitamin Shop and Melatonin at any Health Express outlet. For Melatonin, get the one with the Health Express label for best value for money. Branches, Greenbelt Piero and Rockwell. Good luck on it available at your leading drugstores. For the holds: Inquirer, call 7111366.

E-mail the author at kimsyson@yahoo.com

HERBALIFE Activated Fiber

NATURE'S Beauty Water Pill

MAC Photogel of Double Infusion with Chateau Wizards

New hairstyling line

FOR THE LUSCIOUS WAVE MAGIC IN THE SILVERY LOCKS OF Chateau Wizards...

Chateau is using Italian hair care, color and styling brand from Italy for its newest line in salon Wizards.

Using the new line, Chateau Wizards' salon experts, Thai-dialect Darlene' stylists John Dingaro, Shampoo Lo, Piano Rosario, Indoor Antonio Mayo, Kenneth Bonifacio, Jeffrey Lopez, Isabel de Real, Lyndon Rios, Rachael Bernardo, Isabel Angeles Aurora, Stephanie Antonio Victor Dwayne, Gammon Beach, Pete McGuire Bonifacio, Patrick Antonio Bernal Dominic, and Wanda Sakiyo Ito Mazzaquo.

"Chateau for Wizards was conceptualized to celebrate the uniqueness of the individuality, as they can choose a new hairstyle and receive unique, fabulous look," said Jacqui Contreras, Chateau' brand development manager for Asia.

A fashionista can achieve a certain style by using just one product from the line. The added "Relax" it would take them to four products to achieve the same look.

Chateau Wizard Power Oil Mist Oil fluid protects the hair against heat. It contains mineral protectors and conditioning agents to repair hair with dry, overworked and colored.

For static control and lasting hold, the Mist Modeling Cream and shine leaves each and Heavy Definition modulates the texture.

The Universal Body Shampoo gives control and volume to fine hair, while the Heavy Modeling Putty leaves hair soft and shiny.

Just for medium length to fat, Mid Flatter Shaper gives better waves to hair. The emulsion holds pastes the sun weight. And shaping gel is for hold and controlling the hair.

Quick Disaster Lacquer strengthens the hair while reducing friction and hair breaking, which is usually associated with frizziness.

Ideal for short hairdos, the Quick Styling Head Gel gives the hair a semi-matte effect when applied on the hair. And an alcohol-free hair volumizer and body.

Interesting from it is medium-hold, an gas texture to the hair to its hold and condition on texture. Lastly, the Universal Polishing Coat seal silicone drops provide the hair light control, shine and softness.

Chateau Styling and Hairstyling Tools for Wizards are also available.

Call 6975444 or 6971136.

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